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East Bay lesbian activist  
recounts recent visit.

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see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 15 • 10 April 2003

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## Deal nixed in harass case

by Zak Szymanski

A plea-bargain deal for radical AIDS activists David Pasquarelli and Michael Petrelis fell through in San Francisco Superior Court on Tuesday, April 8, despite months of negotiations that aimed to dismiss pending felony charges against the pair.

Pasquarelli and Petrelis will now face trial for their alleged involvement in harassing and threatening members of the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 2001. The preliminary hearing picks up in Department 22 on Tuesday, April 15 at 9 a.m. Both defendants have been excused from the appearance due to health problems.

"It is with sadness and regret that I realize we are not resolving this ... after extraordinary settlement efforts," Judge Carol Yaggy said in court before announcing that the case would proceed.

Under the proposed settlement, felony charges against Pasquarelli and Petrelis would have been dropped. But prosecutor Michon Martin told colleagues before court went into session that Petrelis, who continuously demanded "exception after exception," in effect blew the deal. Martin also expressed, however, that settlements may be reached in the future.

Petrelis spent much of Tuesday's appearance in the back of the courtroom laughing. Pasquarelli sat on the farthest opposite corner of the room.

The two men were arrested on

page 5 ►

## Study calls into question SF's gay bathhouse prohibition

by Matthew S. Bajko

Nearly 20 years after San Francisco closed down the city's gay bathhouses, a new study calls into question the effectiveness of the policy.

According to the study, which looked at four cities' regulations regarding bathhouses, researchers found that prohibiting private spaces in the bathhouses did not affect whether men engaged in unprotected anal intercourse.

Instead, such a policy did impact where the unsafe sex occurred, the study found.

"It appears that city-specific public policies regulating the types of spaces allowed in gay bathhouses have little impact on the prevalence of overall risk behavior engaged in" by gay and bisexual men who visit bathhouses, reports the study.

"It appears the more effective policies regulated what owners must do rather than regulating what patrons do," found the study, published in the April 1 edition of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*.

However, William Woods, the study's lead author and a professor of medicine at the University of California at San Francisco, cautioned that the study should not be viewed as an exorcism of the city's policy. He said the study does not answer whether



The former 8th Street Baths, at 8th and Folsom streets, now houses programs of Episcopal Community Services.

the city should allow bathhouses to reopen.

"It is not a simple, straightforward answer to that kind of question," said Woods, an openly gay man who moved to the city amid

the heated battles over the gay bathhouses in the mid-1980s. "I personally would not interpret the paper or data that way. I think that

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## Gov. Davis moves to limit domestic partners bill

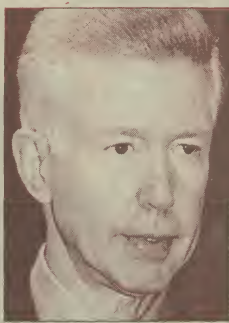
by Matthew S. Bajko

As gay state Assembly members attempt to gather enough support for a wide-ranging domestic partners bill, Governor Gray Davis's administration is working behind the scenes to limit the scope of the legislation.

AB205, called the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, would elevate domestic partnerships to the same status as Vermont's civil unions and grant to same-sex couples nearly all the benefits and privileges straight couples receive when they marry. Authored by out lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), the bill moved out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee last week and is now before the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Before it ever reaches the full Assembly for a vote, it is likely the legislation will be curtailed due to Davis, who is said to have reservations about the bill's breadth. Davis has appointed two of his top aides, both gay men, to work with Goldberg and her staff on the bill's language and scope.

Daniel Zingale, who became Davis's chief of staff earlier this year, and Eric Bauman, a special assistant to the governor, are working with Goldberg to craft a final version of the



Governor Gray Davis

legislation that Davis would be willing to sign if it makes it to his desk.

"The governor wants to sign a domestic partners bill this year. [But] AB205 goes a little further in some areas than the governor is comfortable with," Bauman said during a press conference with gay media outlets on Thursday, April 3.

Bauman refused to state which rights or responsibilities the governor wishes to have removed from the bill, stating "I am not prepared to identify those at this time."

When pressed on the issue Bauman stated, "We don't negotiate legislation in the press, that is done respectfully with the authors of the bill."

Goldberg did not return a call seeking comment.

Gay rights advocates said they were disappointed to learn of Davis's concerns, especially since the gay and lesbian community supported the governor more than any other segment of the Democratic Party in his tough re-election race last year. And advocates have made clear to the governor they expect him

to support and sign AB205.

During a meeting between Davis and LGBT community leaders in Los Angeles on March 21, it was made clear to Davis that "AB205 is the number one priority for the gay and lesbian community," said John Duran, an openly gay member of the West Hollywood City Council who attended the meeting.

"I also suggested we were not willing to take any amendments that would dilute the bill," said Duran, president of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality Foundation and a CAPE board member. "Equality means just that and trying to horse trade away certain rights would not be acceptable."

According to Duran, the governor never mentioned any substantive objections to the bill during the two-hour meeting. Though he said there were some hints that the community will have to press for certain parts of the bill.

"It raised the question in many of our minds whether the attempt to dilute the bill is just for the political perception that the governor is not kowtowing to the gay and lesbian community," said Duran. "If that is the case, it is not acceptable."

Many gay activists said they are tired of the "small-steps" approach of granting gay rights that the state has taken in the past. They said the community has waited long enough for these rights and it is time the state granted them to same-sex couples.

"If you could take a step back and look at all the rights bestowed to heterosexual cou-

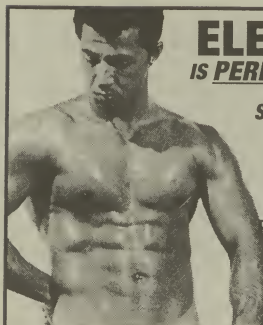
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# AIDS advocates lobby for ADAP funding

by Matthew S. Bajko

For John Camp, a San Francisco resident who has been HIV-positive for two decades, it could mean the difference between buying groceries or paying for his AIDS medications.

Camp, 55 and the former executive director of the Diablo Valley AIDS Center in Contra Costa County, said he would be forced to make such a choice if the state were to implement Governor Gray Davis's proposal for a co-payment requirement for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

With his health deteriorating last year, Camp said he was forced to step down from his job and go on disability in January. If the state were to endorse the co-pay plan, he would have to spend upwards of \$160 each month for the life-saving drugs needed to keep his HIV in check.

Money, he said, he can ill afford to spend.

"Without the ADAP program, I would literally be choosing between getting my medication or food or housing or whatever it is," said Camp. "It hits you really hard on the financial side of it."

Hoping to persuade state lawmakers to drop the co-payment requirement and support an alternative proposal to funding ADAP, AIDS advocates and people living with HIV will descend on Sacramento Monday, April 21 to lobby lawmakers. Organized by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's HIV Advocacy Network, the agency hopes to bus more than 200 people from the Bay Area to the capital.

While he has lobbied for state funding in the past as director of a nonprofit, Camp said this will mark the first time he is taking part as a client.

"I really think it is important we get involved. Our brothers and sisters are going to be hard hit from this," said Camp. "We fought a long time to get the services we wanted and I would like to see them stay in place."

The battle to safeguard ADAP's funding is sure to be a bruising

one. Amid projections of a \$35 billion state deficit, Davis's proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-04 fails to provide the \$25 million in increased funding needed by ADAP to meet growing demand and rising drug prices. As the *Bay Area Reporter* reported last month, ADAP programs across the country are facing funding crises.

The state is expected to spend more than \$60 million on ADAP next year, with the program's total cost more than \$186 million. Davis's proposed budget includes \$9.5 million in additional revenue for ADAP over last year, with \$2.3 million of that amount coming from rebates on pharmaceuticals purchased by the program. Another \$7.2 million would be paid by ADAP clients themselves in the form of co-payments ranging from \$30 to \$50 per prescription, depending on income level.

Advocates have indicated to the Legislature and governor that the proposed co-payments are unacceptable and that, given the life and death nature of the program, funds must be found to fully fund ADAP. Advocates are advancing a proposal to identify the full \$25 million needed by ADAP in the 2003-04 budget year without creating co-payments.

"If we take some money from other areas of the HIV and AIDS budget, we can move it into ADAP," said Dana Van Gorder, the AIDS foundation's director of state and local affairs.

Under the advocates' proposal, \$8 million would be cut from other programs and be slated toward ADAP, though Van Gorder did not specify from which programs the money would be cut. Another \$4 million would come from additional ADAP funding Congress recently approved.

Negotiations over drug prices currently under way with pharmaceutical companies could net an additional \$5 million for ADAP. Also, the advocates are projecting another \$5.5 million could be generated from rebates from the big pharma companies.

The remaining \$3 million may be found from the state's newly enacted regulations regarding the drug Serostim, a human growth hormone used to treat facial wasting. The drug, which is on both the ADAP and Medical formularies, has also been subject to abuse with bodybuilders buying it to enhance their muscles.

The state's Office of AIDS announced last week it is now requiring prior authorization for a physician to prescribe the drug. The new rules require some level of clinical review on whether someone in fact needs the drug.

Officials predict that the new restrictions will save the state \$7.5 million a year.

"The administration committed to us if we can help them achieve savings in expenditures of that drug, we can put that money directly into ADAP," Van Gorder said.

## ADAP hearings

On the same day advocates will be lobbying in Sacramento, both the Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees will be holding hearings on ADAP. In order to advance the community's proposal to fully fund ADAP, advocates said it is essential that the community have a significant presence in Sacramento.

In recent weeks, advocates have met with two of the governor's openly gay top advisers, Daniel Zingale, his chief of staff, and Eric Bauman, a special assistant to Davis. In a conference call with gay media outlets last week, Bauman said the administration is open to "finding innovative ways that we can protect ADAP" and is committed to ensuring the program does not run out of money as has happened in other states.

"I would not say anyone has come up with a solution. There are some ideas on the table being fleshed out by leaders of the AIDS community and some ideas they are going to bring to us," said Bauman.

To date though, Bauman said "the co-payment is part of the governor's proposal. Ultimately, the Legislature has to pass it."

Openly gay Assemblymen Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) are working with AIDS advocates to promote the alternative plan among lawmakers. Leno said he is working to build support among the state's Latino, black, and female lawmakers, whose communities are also impacted by AIDS.


"Because [AIDS] impacts so many people through so many communities throughout the state, if we are effective in building our coalition it is reasonable to assume that we could prevail legislatively to not have a co-pay," said Leno.

Though he cautioned, "When it comes to the budget, the governor has the final word."

The AIDS foundation said anyone who wishes to participate in the lobby day should plan to be in Sacramento at 10 a.m. and depart at approximately 6 p.m., depending on when the ADAP item is heard in the budget subcommittees. Lunch will be provided and transportation will be available for participants from San Francisco and the Oakland area.

Contact Julie Ratner at (415) 487-8008 to sign up for the lobby day or for more information. ▼

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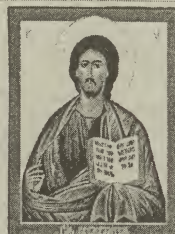
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4/17 Maundy Thursday - 8PM + joint Eucharist with First United Lutheran with Vigil before Altar of Repose

4/18 Good Friday - 12 Noon + Traditional Service with Veneration of the Cross Watch before the Cross until 3PM: Liturgy of the Tomb 3PM

4/19 Easter Vigil - 10 PM + joint service with First United Lutheran

4/20 Easter Sunday - 6PM + Festive Eucharist of Easter Day



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# SFPD officers' charges dismissed

by Cynthia Laird

Conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges against five high-ranking San Francisco Police Department officials were dismissed by a Superior Court judge Friday, April 4 after she could find no evidence to support the grand jury's indictments.

Judge Kay Tsenin's ruling clears five members of the command staff, including Captain Greg Corrales, who runs Mission Station. Corrales returned to work this week supervising the officers whose jurisdiction includes the Castro.

Also cleared were Deputy

Chiefs Greg Suhr and David Robinson, Lieutenant Ed Cota, and Sergeant John Syme.

Felony charges remain against the three off-duty officers whose alleged involvement in a street brawl outside a Union Street bar led to the charges against the command staff, who were alleged to have covered up the subsequent investigation into the November 20, 2002 incident in which two young men were beat up. Those officers — Alex Fagan Jr., Matthew Tonsing, and David Lee — face assault charges and have pleaded not guilty. Fagan Jr. is the son of Assistant Chief Alex Fagan Sr., who is now running the SFPD as Chief Earl Sanders is on medical leave.

Sanders and Fagan Sr. had earlier faced charges relating to the November 20 incident but those were dropped last month by District Attorney Terence Hallinan.

In court last week, Tsenin said that while there was no evidence of a conspiracy, the behavior of the command staff left much to be desired. She said that there were problems with how high ranking officers initially responded to the incident and that Syme — the sergeant who arrived at the scene that night — gave the rookie officers "preferential treatment." But for a conspiracy, there needed to be agreement among the alleged conspirators, and Tsenin said she could find none. ▼



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## Test results released in OD cases

by Ed Walsh

The two Castro Country Club regulars who were found dead of suspected drug overdoses on the same day earlier this year likely used the same type of heroin but they probably didn't shoot up an identical batch of the drug, according to the results of toxicology tests released this week.

Neil "Alex" Fruge, 27, was found dead in his Tenderloin hotel room at 9:45 a.m. on January 2 and Frank "Tug" Araujo was discovered dead less than three hours later in front of the Castro Country Club, the popular non-alcohol club on 18th Street that both men frequented.

San Francisco Medical Exam-

iner Dr. Boyd Stephens told the *Bay Area Reporter* that tests showed that both Fruge and Araujo probably used Mexican black tar heroin, the most common type of heroin sold in San Francisco.

"It's a very crude product," Stephens noted.

The resulting blood levels of morphine and codeine produced by the heroin were significantly different in each of the men, indicating that they probably didn't use the same batch, according to Stephens.

While tests showed that Araujo had taken only heroin, Fruge also had Valium and traces of the antidepressant Wellbutrin in his system. Stephens said because there was only a small amount of Wellbutrin in Fruge's blood, he most likely had recently stopped taking

it. Stephens explained that it's not uncommon for people to stop using psychiatric drugs to avoid adverse reactions to illicit drugs.

Friends told the *B.A.R.* they had very fond memories of Fruge and Araujo but both men, friends said, struggled for years with substance abuse.

Fruge supported himself through freelance work by catering, doing design work, and making floral arrangements, according to his close friend, Santiago Juan.

Araujo was a prominent member of the Radical Faeries. He was on Social Security disability and was living on the streets at the time of his death, according to his friend and former Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor, Robert Felkins. ▼

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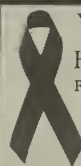
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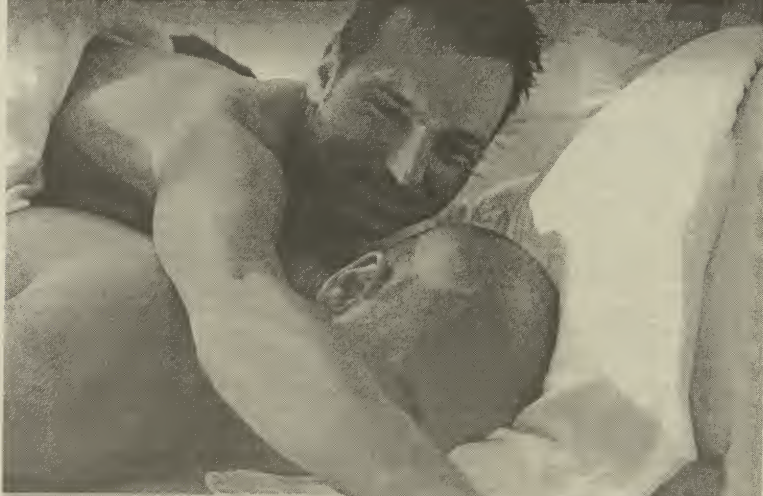
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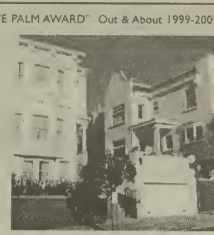


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## A fun New Leaf gala



Tony Award-winning actor Alan Cumming (flashing peace sign) and performer Veronica Klaus headlined the gala for New Leaf: Services for Our Community held Tuesday, April 8 at Teatro Zinzanni in San Francisco. The event honored several local residents including George Roosen (between Klaus and Cumming), Dr. Robert Cabaj, fifth from right, and Nancy Kokolj, second from right. New Leaf Executive Director Joe Neisen is at left.

## Drag king contest assault hearing continued

by Zak Szymanski

The court room in Department 20 of the Hall of Justice was packed last Thursday, April 3, with support for the victims of an alleged hate crime attack that occurred during the San Francisco Drag King Contest in August 2002.

So crowded was the courtroom that Superior Court Judge Peter Busch moved the preliminary hearing against defendant Jack Broughton to Department 27 before Judge Julie Tang. Broughton faces assault as well as felony hate crime charges; his alleged accomplice Jean Earl faces misdemeanor charges. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses have reported that Broughton and Earl, both of Walnut Creek, willfully and brutally attacked two women on August 22 at Studio ZTV, also known as the Transmission Theater, as they watched a performance by the transgender and butch lesbian performance group Other Brothers.

According to Other Brothers member Prado Gomez, "an unruly, straight, white couple were being removed from the event for their violent behavior. On the way out, and after spewing racial and homophobic slurs at the security guard and patrons, the woman leapt and punched [the victim], who was standing by the door, in the mouth."

The victim asked not to be identified when contacted by the Bay Area Reporter last year.

According to Gomez, the vic-

tim followed the woman - later identified as Earl - outside to confront her, and was accompanied by a friend. Once outside, Broughton - described as 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing more than 200 pounds - reportedly came up from behind the victim and punched her in the side of the head, cutting her face open. The victim was knocked unconscious, and Broughton allegedly started kicking her in the head and neck as she lay on the ground. The victim's friend attempted to intervene but was also punched by Broughton, who left with Earl and headed toward the Eagle Tavern.

Last week's hearing was supposed to determine whether there is enough evidence for Broughton to stand trial on the charges. Because there is always a chance that such charges can be reduced, community allies showed up in force, wearing red clothing for visibility.

But the hearing, after starting late and relocating down the hall, ended abruptly when Tang granted a motion for continuance to Broughton, effectively giving his defense attorney more time to interview witnesses.

"The defense is not ready," Broughton's attorney Gil Eisenberg said to the judge. Eisenberg emphasized that the venue on the night in question was "jammed shoulder to shoulder," with a potential for hundreds of witnesses. "These are very serious charges," he said, "and Mr. Broughton has no criminal record."

The District Attorney's office, while arguing strongly against the continuance, pointed out that

many of those hundreds of witnesses were already in the courtroom.

But Tang, erring on the side of caution, said she was reluctant to go forward with the hearing only to have the case overturned on appeal due to insufficient defense counsel.

It was a decision that prompted an emotional reaction from the victims, particularly since so much preparation went into ensuring the presence of dozens of supporters. But supporters vowed to return, and to bring others with them, when the preliminary hearing - which has been returned to Department 20 - takes place next month.

Once again, community members are being asked to show solidarity and encourage full prosecution of Broughton.

"It's critically important that all forms of bias crimes are prosecuted with the hate crime enhancement," said a statement from Community United Against Violence. "Inclusion of the hate crime enhancement sends a specific public message that holds the perpetrators of discrimination and intolerance accountable by naming the violence they have committed publicly."

To stand against hate crimes, CUAV is urging interested community members to wear red and report to Department 20 for Broughton's hearing on Tuesday, May 6, at 9 a.m. at 850 Bryant Street in San Francisco. Earl's hearing, meanwhile, is scheduled for Monday, April 14. For more information, call (415) 777-5500, ext. 304. ▼

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# LGBT 'Idols' sought; KRON to air parade

by Zak Szymanski

American Idol contestants, look out. The San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee has announced that "Pride Idol," scheduled to be an annual competition, has been launched and is ready to discover the next new queer sensation.

Produced by Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco, Lance Brittain and Manley Lennox respectively, and leather activist Ren Davis Phoenix, Pride Idol will begin as a series of feeder competitions throughout the community, with the first competition taking place on May 3 at Club Rendez-Vous. Other city venues include El Rio, the Stud, Castro Country Club, Daddy's, Marlena's, the N'Touch, the Edge, Harvey's, and the Bench and Bar in Oakland. The final event will be held June 19 at the

new club Mezzanine.

So what sets Pride Idol apart from its more mainstream competition on television? For one, all the events will raise money for the local charities Breast Cancer Emergency Fund and the Positive Resource Center. Additionally, said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington, "Pride Idol will be much more campy and we won't throw anyone out for posing topless. Besides, our British guy will be much nicer."

The top three Pride Idol winners will receive \$1000, \$500, and \$250, respectively. Program costs and prize money are being underwritten by Red Hook, whose spokeswoman Pamela Hinckley stated, "Pride Idol turns us on!"

Like Fox TV's *American Idol*, Pride Idol will have its standards. Contestants should be one-of-a-kind, outgoing, and community minded, with a mega-personality. In the process of competing, the

Pride Idol will help raise money and awareness for the challenges of breast cancer and HIV/AIDS.

A full listing of Pride Idol contest dates can be found at [www.sf-pride.org/prideidol](http://www.sf-pride.org/prideidol).

Come Pride time, idols, marchers, and activists may be pleased to learn that this year's broadcast of the parade will be shown on KRON-4. The station, which lost some viewers with NBC's switch to a San Jose affiliate, leaving some San Francisco viewers in the dark, still has among the most savvy anchors and reporters in town, and the seasoned staff will team up with local celebrity Donna Sachet to host and comment on the procession.

The decision to change stations from WB-20, said Witherington, was mutual and friendly.

KRON-4's live broadcast of the Pride Parade will be Sunday, June 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ▼

## NORML confab next week

by Liz Highleyman

The 2003 National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws conference will take place next week, April 17-20, at the Hyatt Embarcadero in San Francisco.

This year's conference theme is "Back to Basics: Stop Arresting Marijuana Smokers." After a year that has seen major crackdowns on medical cannabis patients and providers in California and the "Operation Headhunter" sweep of online smoking accessory vendors, the conference will be an opportunity for advocates of marijuana law reform "to review the politics of the past year to see what lessons we can learn, and to plan for the year ahead," said organizers.

The conference will begin Thursday, April 17 with a welcome from San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan and a

keynote address by cannabis cultivation expert Ed Rosenthal. Rosenthal, who is currently seeking a new trial, will discuss his recent federal conviction for growing marijuana under the provisions of Proposition 215, and the ensuing jury revolt.

"My message to all Californians is: you have the right to acquit, and if you voted for Proposition 215, have an obligation to acquit," said Rosenthal. "Jurors need to know their rights when they head into the courtroom so others won't go to jail."

Other speakers will include American Civil Liberties Union President Nadine Strossen, travel writer Rick Steves, former NFL player Mark Stepnoski, advice columnist Dan Savage, Professor Lester Grinspoon, local AIDS expert Dr. Donald Abrams, Senator Pierre Claude Nolin of Canada, San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, and state Assemblyman Mark Leno

(D-San Francisco).

Speeches, panels, and workshops will take place during the day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be an opening reception on Thursday evening, a luncheon on Saturday, and a benefit party Saturday night. This year the conference will include a fourth day, Sunday, devoted to training for students and activists, with topics such as how to lobby and how to write a press release.

NORML, which bills itself as a "voice for responsible marijuana smokers," advocates for policy change related to the medical and recreational use of cannabis. The nonprofit organization, founded in 1970, provides a voice "for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers."

Conference registration is \$150. For more information or to register, call 888-67-NORML or visit [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org). ▼

## Harass case

◀ page 1

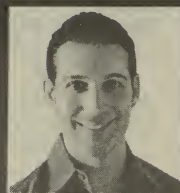
November 28, 2001, after their appearance at a civil hearing which resulted in serving them restraining orders for their alleged threats and harassment. According to prosecutors, the two made numerous phone calls to

public health officials and members of the media after a series of reports were released in the *Chronicle* and the *Bay Area Reporter* detailing an increase in syphilis rates in the gay community, and after a magazine comment concerning quarantine of gay men was attributed to a member of DPH.

The pair also allegedly called

staff members of the B.A.R. although those calls are not part of the criminal case.

According to the District Attorney's office, Petrelis and Pasquarelli each face one count of conspiracy to commit a crime; two counts of solicitation of personal injury claims with intent to sue out of state; and four counts of making criminal threats. ▼



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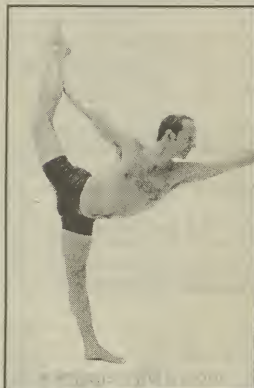
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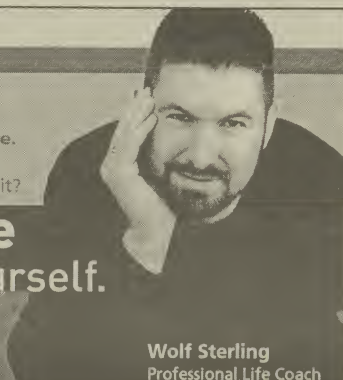


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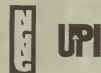


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## Stephen Funk's folly

One of the weirder tales that has emerged relating to the war in Iraq — from a gay perspective — is the strange story of gay Lance Corporal Stephen Funk, the Marine Corps reservist who last week very publicly said he was seeking conscientious objector status just weeks after receiving active duty orders. As we reported, Funk, 20, announced his moral opposition to the war and said he never imagined when he voluntarily enlisted that he might have to actually fight in combat. At a news conference outside his San Jose unit, Funk was surrounded by family members and antiwar activists who sought to use his case for political gain.

Funk's case is troubling to us on a couple of issues. And while Funk may have made a serious error in judgment when he joined the Marines last year (if, as he stated, he is so opposed to war), he isn't entirely to blame for the circus that unfolded last week.

The first aspect of the case that we find offensive is the fact that while antiwar activists publicized Funk's CO request, they did not mention his sexual orientation unless specifically asked. His handlers — including Global Exchange, which sent out the press release, and his out gay attorney Steve Collier — definitely downplayed the fact that Funk is gay. When we first heard about the story, we didn't know that detail; it was only after we asked that we were told that Funk is gay. Collier wasn't exactly enthused to discuss it with us either. Most media outlets did not mention Funk's sexual orientation in initial reports, which is exactly what the organizers wanted. That decision to hide

Funk's sexual orientation was made to the detriment of the gay and lesbian community that has been fighting the homophobic "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for a decade now. Funk could have acknowledged his sexual orientation before the throngs of reporters last week to make a statement against DADT; he did not and that failure to disclose was a sin of omission.



## Editorial

The second part of the case that we find distasteful is the notion of Funk even seeking CO status; after all, there is no military draft now and he voluntarily signed up with the Marines, even completing basic training. It was only after his unit received deployment orders that Funk apparently saw the light and realized he'd likely be doing what it is people do in the military — fight the enemy. Yes Funk may have fallen victim to overzealous military recruiting, but he was 19 years old at the time — a legal adult. Ultimately, he made the decision to enlist. In Funk's specific case, there's a strong argument that if war isn't his thing, he should have known better — his father is reported to be a Vietnam veteran. Presumably, Funk has some knowledge of his father's background. And what did Funk do upon receiving orders calling him up for active duty? He went AWOL, instantly complicat-



Stephen Funk turns himself in last week accompanied by his family members, left, and antiwar activist Aimee Allison, right.

ing his life with the prospect of severe repercussions. Arguably, it was the worst decision he could make.

In the end, the whole incident lacks sincerity. Antiwar activists used Funk as a pawn in their attempt to show the country that people in the military are opposed to war, and they ended up looking foolish behind an immature young man who says he thought that joining the Marines would "be like the Boy Scouts."

It is important to remember that for every Stephen Funk, there are many more gay men and lesbians serving bravely in the military, forced to live in the closet because of DADT. Stephen Funk's folly should in no way detract the community from working to lift the ban on serving openly in the armed forces. And if antiwar activists want to retain their credibility, they should be more honest with the public. ▼

## A queer Muslim's fear &amp; anxiety

by Faisal Alam

Shock and awe." These are the words the Pentagon has used to describe the thousands of bombs that were dropped on the city of Baghdad in the first 48 hours of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. "Shock and awe." While the words are nowhere near describing the real impact of the devastation upon the residents of the capital of Iraq, they are accurate in describing the intense emotions and feelings that I am feeling today.

My parents immigrated to the United States when I was 10 years old. They came seeking a better life: economic opportunity, religious freedom, and a better education for their children. While always remembering their cultural roots in Pakistan, my parents embraced the United States as their new home and always taught my brother and I that America was the land of opportunity, where we could become whomever we wanted regardless of our ethnic or religious background. But I knew this would not be the case. America's history spoke for itself and my skin color, my name, and the faith that I called Islam would become the biggest barriers to any freedom and equality of which my parents had dreamed.

As far back as I can remember I have always felt like an outsider. I was one of six people of color in my entire high school. We were the only Pakistani immigrant family in our small town in New England. And soon I became the only queer person in my Islamic community. I felt isolated, alone, and fearful, but I knew that I wasn't alone in my struggles and eventually I would find a community to call my own.

As a queer Muslim, an activist, a person of color, and a South Asian, I have spent the last five years of my life, since I've been out, creating my own community. A community that often lives on the margins of society, spread across the world in cities far away. I have created my own close-knit network of friends that have become my new family. And although I have become a member of different marginalized communities and have often felt "at home," I find myself once again feeling isolated, alone and afraid.

The world seems to be spinning out of

control and there is nothing that anyone can do to stop it. I attended the antiwar rally and march in Washington, D.C. last month and that brought some sense of relief and solidarity with other Americans, but somehow I still feel like an outsider; as though I am somehow trapped in the middle of this conflict and I cannot escape. And I know that my queerness, my faith, my political beliefs, and my heritage are all at the root of these emotions.

Being a queer Muslim in today's world is an indescribable feat. While the government of Egypt convicted 21 men because of their perceived sexual orientation, the government of Israel has deported two gay Palestinian men to the Occupied Territories. The 21 Egyptian men face three years in prison for the "acts of habitual debauchery," while the two deported Palestinian men will mostly likely be killed for being "collaborators" of Israel.

Meanwhile in the United States, dozens of LGBT Muslims are struggling to stay in the United States by seeking asylum, often becoming part of the very system that they are trying to flee. Many of these individuals will be denied asylum and will be deported to their home countries, while many others will flee to Canada, far away from family, friends, and loved ones.

I am afraid. I am angry. I am scared. I am terrified. I am afraid of what will happen to my friends from Pakistan and various other countries. I am angry at our president who thinks that the sword is mightier than the pen. I am scared for myself, for my beloved who lives in New York City, for my parents who live abroad, and for my many precious friends who are scattered across the globe. And I am terrified that my Muslim identity and my queer antiwar activism will lead to my arrest; that I will disappear and become a "government witness," in our government's domestic "war on terrorism," in the name of "homeland security."

From a very young age I was taught that Islam is a religion of tests. Our short lives on this earth are nothing but a test and the real truth lies after our souls depart our bodies. Those that have patience and faith through

these tests will gain the ultimate victory and will take their seats next to the Divine. But today, in a world gone crazy, where my prayers don't seem to be heard by anyone, these teachings seem meaningless.

Perhaps the only comfort in my life right now is knowing that I am ultimately not alone in my internal and external struggle. I know that we are all scared — as Americans, as queer people, and as Muslims. I also know that my love for my friends, my family, my loved ones, and my Divine, surpasses any level of hatred that our president or his administration might try to impose onto my life. For in the end I am not just a queer Muslim, a Pakistani, an immigrant, a person of color, or any of the other identities I hold. Ultimately I am a member of our global humanity. A global soul that is comprised of 5 billion people on earth. This greater

human life will always go on regardless of conflict and war. And the human desire to know one another, to learn from one another, and to live with one another in peace and harmony, surpassing our many differences, will outweigh our leaders' desires to destroy each other.

My ancestors also guide my internal vision for peace and justice in this world and my external struggle to create a world free from prejudice and hatred. Bayard Rustin, Cesar Chavez, and Audre Lorde have all created a path of social justice for me to follow. They all endured great suffering and pain — physical, mental, and emotional. Pain and suffering that I cannot even begin to imagine. Their light and their voices lay before me and I know that together with my sisters, brothers, friends and comrades, I can help fulfill their vision for our global village. ▼

Faisal Alam, 25, is the founder and director of Al-Fatiha, an international grassroots movement dedicated to Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning. Currently, Alam works for a national HIV/AIDS organization and resides in Washington, D.C.



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## 'Pansy' division

I almost feel sorry for Stephen Funk [*"Gay AWOL Marine seeks conscientious objector status,"* April 3]. What was going through his mind when he enlisted in the Marines last year? That camaraderie through renditions of *Chorus Line* would provide high levels of personal "growth"? The notion that the United States Marines would at all be akin to the Boy Scouts left me in both stitches and bewilderment. Part of me wishes that he could be discharged for such naïveté and forgiven his training costs. But what a fool. Before I continue, let me it clear that I fully respect his constitutional right to hold such views. Personally, I have an uncle who is steadfastly against our current actions, yet he met his honorable commitment, reported to duty, and shipped out for Iraq last week. Furthermore, Funk's suggestion that being homosexual defines homosexuals automatically as pacifists is a notion that I find both absurd and insulting.

As someone who views the Iraqi conflict as a necessary evil (and still despises the Bush/Cheney junta) Funk's unfortunate actions only serve to reinforce the fear and hatred that so many feel toward LGBT service men and women in our armed forces. It further gives credence to the "pansy" stereotype that persists against so many gay men. It is my strongest hope that Funk is denied both conscientious objector status and a DADT discharge namely for the reason that his self-centered "pie-in-sky" attitude has set back our community's hope of full and open inclusion in the U.S. military by decades.

I never joined the military because I never allowed myself to fall under any illusion that I could provide the necessary personal sacrifices expected or that military was anything that anyone with a right mind knows it to be – a fighting and killing machine that requires much of someone. Yet, I expect that those who do sign the "contract" to be fully able and willing to do what they are trained for and is expected of them. Again, Funk the fool.

As someone who feels that we as individuals should be held accountable for our actions, I trust the military will court marshal and provide the maximum sentence afforded by military law – which I trust is ample time at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where Mr. Funk might find some true personal "growth."

Throw the book and throw it hard.

Bryson Roberts  
San Francisco

## Clueless Marine

Regarding Stephen Funk and the Marines: How naive can this man be? The Marines, he thought, were "like the Boy Scouts." Duh. Of all the armed services, he picks the branch which is the first to encounter battles. Kill. But, Funk said he didn't think killing was a priority in the Marines. Incredible. What an imbecile! The purpose of the armed forces is to defend and protect the country, and that entails, me thinks, violence and killing. By all means, give him the conscientious objector status and a general discharge.

I was in the Air Force and basic training was an arduous endeavor. I knew what I was getting into. I prevailed, persevered, adapted, and served for eight years. How utterly myopic and naive can this guy be? Yet the *Bay Area Reporter* has him on the front page. Guys, this is not what gay men find a good role model. This guy's case and character borders on wimpiness and idiocy.

Art Alcantar  
San Francisco

## Kerry doesn't speak for all Dems

In Wayne Friday's column [*"Dean uses war against fellow Democrats,"* *Our Man Friday*, April 3], in which he unfairly criticizes former Governor Howard Dean, he quotes Senator John Kerry's campaign: "Democrats are disappointed that Howard Dean has decided to use a war for political gain..."

I am curious. I would like to know when the senator became the spokesman for all Democrats, because he does not speak for this Democrat!

Friday further notes that Dean is tied, in the lead, with the senator in a recent New Hampshire poll. It would seem to me that Dean's opposition to the war is quite legitimate, as his stance apparently resonates with numerous Democrats. Many people, like myself, truly understand and believe Dean when they hear him say, "This is the wrong war at the wrong time."

If Friday does not believe that the war is a valid issue to discuss and debate in a presidential election, I would like to know why. Lastly, if the use of war for political gain is the issue, well then, shouldn't Friday's criticism, as well as the senator's, be directed toward the president?

C. Shane Southard  
San Francisco

## Column misses the point

I regret to say that I found Wayne Friday's most recent political column, "Dean uses war against fellow Democrats" to be ignorant at best, and dismissive at worst. While I take issue with several points in the col-

umn, let me just say that I feel that Friday is missing the fact that the former governor of Vermont has tapped into a very deep vein of political discontent which crosses all party affiliations and sections of American society.

None of the uniformly uninspiring and co-opted slate of Democratic candidates, which Friday seems to support, (I'd call them the political drag version of the Robert Palmer girls from the video "Simply Irresistible") have shown the political cojones that Dean has shown in his speeches. Like any good medical doctor (for those who are unaware, Dean is an M.D.) he has diagnosed America's ills and is not mincing words when it comes to the necessity of addressing important issues such as the war, healthcare, and the looming black hole of fiscal irresponsibility called the budget deficit. Whereas the sclerotic Democratic nominees seem to offer a vision of America that is not much more than "Republican light," Dean outlays vision of an America that captures the quintessential Democratic dream, hopes for an America which has no divisions of race, creed, orientation, gender or class; an inclusive society that allows everyone to blossom according to their talents, and values compassion and consideration of both our fellow Americans and our neighbors in the global community.

Yes, Dean might be considered a long shot because he was the governor of a small and insignificant state, when it is compared to a Texas or California, but then people thought the same of Arkansas' Bill Clinton.

When Friday says that Dean is "considered by most to be a long shot for the party's nomination," I'd like to know who these "most" are. Certainly they are not the average person who feels disenfranchised by a political system that seems to endorse either the pseudo-monarchical Bush family with George I, George II, and God forbid, Jeb's son, who is being groomed to be George III on the one hand. On the other hand we have the mediocre Democratic junta of Gary Hart, John Edwards, John Kerry, Richard Gephardt, and Joe Lieberman.

If Friday would take a look at Meetup.com, (a revolutionary Web site devoted to allowing average individuals to come together to meet and organize for their favorite causes and hobbies) he would see that grassroots support for Dean is skyrocketing. Support for "Dean in 2004" is already at 12, 929 people across the U.S. The supposedly leading candidates currently stand as follows: Bush at 214 people, and for the Democrats, Kerry at 770, Edwards at 517, Hart at 705, Gephardt at 92. If Friday still seems to think that Dean is a long shot, then he needs to enroll in the nearest statistical course as soon as possible.

While we can all be sure that the bigots, the ignoramuses, and the cretins among us will be the first to oppose Dean because of his support for GLBT civil unions, I am astonished that Friday and, by extension, the *B.A.R.*, should try to undermine Dean's potential support in our community when, clearly, Dean is on the way to capturing the hopes and aspirations of Americans everywhere.

Brian de los Santos  
San Francisco

## The brighter the light, the better

Wayne Friday's piece on presidential candidate Howard Dean is an interesting document. It implies that the former governor of Vermont is attacking his fellow candidates, but it does not manage to cast anything but stronger light on the man it appears to criticize. Dean is alone in the field of Democratic candidates in this way: the brighter the light anyone aims at him, the better he looks.

Howard Dean is not a member of Congress, and thus had neither the opportunity nor the obligation to vote for the war resolution passed by Congress. This is true. Those Democratic members of Congress who did vote for the war resolution may have "had their hands forced" on the vote, as Friday asserts. This is probably also true. But for whatever reason, these intelligent members of Congress did show up to vote, did vote as they felt was necessary for their political survival, and promptly began the tap dance of stated positions that is so familiar to us Democratic voters.

We have all seen this before. A man speaks in support of one side, and then stands on another. He uses the prose of his conscience in a time of relative bipartisan safety, only to contradict himself when it seems that to do otherwise would leave him alone in the shadow of a powerful – if still unpopular – president. The politician who does this is exactly like all those who have gone before him. He will not lose his shirt in the next congressional vote, but neither will he win the seat of power he seeks a year and a half from now. He's not brave enough to risk the first, and not strong enough to achieve the second.

Howard Dean is brave, strong, and dangerous. He stands outside the cowed herd of congressmen and congresswomen who are more concerned for their own futures as representatives than they are for those they represent. Dean is in a fortunate place, as Friday implies. But he is not, as is also implied, using that place to bully his fellow candidates. Friday can be for-

next page ►

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**Mailstrom**

◀ previous page

given for his misunderstanding of Howard Dean and his intentions; it has been a long time since any of us has seen a Democrat who has the courage to be consistent. It has been a long time since any Democrat has taken a passionate stand on several issues, and has refused to give no quarter in his adherence to any of them. Howard Dean toned down the rhetoric of his opposition to the war, once it started. But he did not reverse himself, as John Kerry has done. In contradicting his own views on the war, Kerry has drawn criticism from within and without his own party; he's even inspired a White House spokesman to suggest that the Democratic Party itself does not know what it stands for. It knows, all right. John Kerry is simply the wrong man to consult on what it stands for, or how much it believes in those views.

I encourage anyone who wants to know more about Howard Dean to research his work as governor of Vermont, and his views on the issues - that's plural "issues," Friday, from universal healthcare to fiscal responsibility to a cooperative and intelligent foreign policy. I invite all who are interested to suspend their disbelief, and entertain the possibility that now - for once - we might have a Democratic presidential candidate who is both credible and electable. Howard Dean stands up well to scrutiny, for a very simple reason: he knows when to stand up.

Anne Sutton Broshar  
San Francisco

**Dean and healthcare**

I don't understand why Howard Dean's stand against our unilateral intervention in Iraq seems to be the only issue that columnists can find to write about.

Just because Howard Dean is the only major candidate who is unambiguously opposed to this unnecessary war doesn't mean he should be marginalized as simply an "antiwar" candidate.

What attracts me to Howard Dean's candidacy is his support for a system to provide health insurance to all Americans. In the small state of Vermont, Dean was able to establish a system to cover all children under 25 using the current Medicaid structure. He has pledged to duplicate this and expand it to Americans of all ages.

Still, Dean doesn't want to replace our system with a new "big government" program, preferring to use credits and subsidies to allow the uninsured to purchase coverage. I agree wholeheartedly with his point that it is shameful for a nation as wealthy as ours to fail to provide for the basic human need of health care.

Howard Dean is the only candidate for president to speak loudly and clearly for universal health insurance and that is the reason I will support him in the primary.

Sandra Mix  
San Francisco

**Takes exception to letter**

I am proud to say that I am a member of a community that welcomes the expression of diverse opinions on the war in which the United States is currently engaged. Therefore, I was somewhat taken aback by Tom McCloskey's letter, printed in your March 27 edition. McCloskey seemed to imply that anyone who disagreed with his point of view (that the Iraq war is the only morally acceptable solution to Saddam Hussein's tyranny) was not only misguided, but corrupt, degenerate, greedy, selfish, anti-American, and in favor of raping dead babies in the streets of Baghdad. Pardon me if I take exception.

It is irrational to say that opposition to the war is support for Saddam Hussein. I was against the communist tyranny of the Soviet Union, but I did not advocate "liberating" its people by invading, bombing, or killing its citizens. In the end, other, more nuanced approaches brought down that government. Surely if the second greatest super power in the world, at that time, could be overthrown bloodlessly, the despotism of Saddam could as well.

McCloskey asks those who oppose the war to take moral responsibility for the continuing horrors of Saddam's thugs and bullies, should we do nothing. But will he, in turn, take moral responsibility for our dead soldiers and the hundreds of dead Iraqi non-combatants for whom he claims to feel such noble compassion? Will he take responsibility for the suicide bombers and their victims, when the outrage of the people of the greater Middle East is vented throughout the world?

There are troubling issues that claw at the hearts of good people, throughout our community, our country, and our world. They need to be discussed - freely, without name calling, without self-righteousness - or all the rights and privileges of our wonderful democracy mean nothing. I beg McCloskey to temper his rage and rejoin the conversation with greater respect for the beliefs of others, who may have something worthwhile to say, after all.

May our women and men in the armed forces return safely and soon, and may the people of Iraq sur-

vive to enjoy their liberation.

Jamie Wagoner  
San Francisco

**U.S. history with Iraq**

Pity Tom McCloskey [Mailstrom, March 27]. Queer antiwar protesters have so embarrassed him that he feels ashamed to be gay. Despite Saddam's cruelty, he laments, "there are many in my community who would support him rather than the president of the United States."

McCloskey could stand a history lesson on U.S. dealings with Iraq and Saddam. Saddam's Baath Party came to power in the 1960s through a series of bloody, CIA-backed coups. In 1963 the Baathists, "using lists of suspected leftists provided by the CIA ... systematically murdered ... hundreds of doctors, teachers, technicians, lawyers, and other professionals as well as military and political figures - killings in which Saddam himself is said to have participated." (New York Times, March 14, 2003).

U.S. support for Saddam and his atrocities remained solid through the 1980s. A Senate Banking Committee report listed 70 U.S. shipments to Iraq, starting in 1985, of bugs and poisons, including anthrax. "These microorganisms," the report concluded, "were identical to those the U.N. inspectors found and recovered from the Iraqi biological warfare program."

Even after Saddam gassed the Kurdish people in 1988, "the U.S. government tried to shift the blame to Iran and Bush's father extended to Iraq an additional \$1.2 billion in credits and loans." (San Francisco Chronicle, March 26). And when the Kurds dispatched a senior official named Mahmud Othman to Washington, "no one would see him ... Othman... was informed that [a] meeting 'would jeopardize relations with Saddam'... Attempts by Congress in 1988 to impose sanctions on Iraq were stifled by the Reagan and Bush administrations." (New Yorker, March 25, 2002).

The U.S. broke with Saddam only after he refused to leave Kuwait. Ironically, he had asked our ambassador to Iraq at the time, April Glaspie, if the U.S. would object to an invasion; she told him the U.S. had no opinion on the matter. The first Gulf War was brutal; U.S. atrocities included the use of depleted-uranium bullets and the massacre of 400 civilians in a Baghdad bomb shelter. We goaded Kurds and Shiites to rise up against Saddam, then stood by while his forces slaughtered them. After the war, the U.S. placed sanctions on Iraq which have cost the lives of up to 500,000 children.

Is it any wonder Iraqis view our latest round of bombing and killing not as "liberation" but as yet another assault? Casting the U.S. as savior won't play; what enrages Washington is not Saddam's crimes, but his refusal to follow orders.

McCloskey worries that "those who oppose military intervention in Iraq are helping Saddam ... build his supply of non-conventional weapons... Currently, he has 8,500 liters of anthrax, and over 1,000 liters of botulism which he refuses to account for... Is the antiwar movement so ill-informed they do not realize that U.N. Resolution 1441 calls for Iraq to disarm, and nothing less?"

McCloskey goes on to accuse antiwar LGBTs of "wallowing" in selfishness. "They complain about a possible loss of civil rights after the war starts ... but they forget the citizens of Iraq have no civil rights ... The left would have us believe they are the only ones who have any compassion for the people of Iraq." Iraq's civilian body count now exceeds 1,000, after nights of shock and awe, exploding bombs and missiles. Is this the kind of conservative compassion George Bush talked about? Mr. McCloskey wonders how many gays and lesbians were murdered in Iraq last week. It depends, I suppose, on our president's aim.

Finally, McCloskey condemns the antiwar group which organized the protests, ANSWER, for advocating "the violent overthrow of the U.S. government." Since a recent poll showed 55 percent of the world named George Bush "the biggest threat to justice and peace" as opposed to just 21 percent voting for Saddam Hussein, logic suggests that McCloskey endorse this preemptive strike, in keeping with the Bush doctrine he so admires.

Jay Lyon  
San Francisco

**Thanks for support**

Kevin Woodson and I would like to thank everyone in the community who came to "Kevin's Men" to view his exhibit of watercolors and support Project Open Hand. After the opening, we donated \$470 to POH from donations and sales of Woodson's paintings and we have already collected another \$175 in donations and sales.

There are still paintings for sale and Woodson's work will be up through April 13 at my studio, 1229 Folsom Street. They can be seen by appointment by calling (415) 621-6294. The paintings can also be viewed at www.mcheater.best.vwh.net. We're hoping to sell all the work and any donation will be considered.

Mark I. Chester  
San Francisco



# Democratic candidates raise millions for White House bids

by Wayne Friday

Despite the fact that a new *Los Angeles Times* poll confirms that Americans appear to be experiencing the traditional rally-around-the-flag effect common when the country's troops are at war, Democratic presidential contenders apparently feel, as do a growing number of American voters, that this war could now last several more weeks and could eventually become a political disaster for **George W. Bush** because of the impact on the U.S. and worldwide economy. Indeed, despite the 68 percent approval rating afforded Bush, recent polls contained serious warning signals for Bush in that his approval ratings don't come near the 85 percent

peak reached by his father, President **George H.W. Bush**, during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Recognizing that Bush's approval numbers are likely to drop drastically after completion of the war, particularly if the nation's economy is indeed suffering, Democratic presidential hopefuls are busy raising money to take on a Republican president they feel will be vulnerable by November 2004. According to fundraising estimates provided by their respective campaigns last week, North Carolina Senator **John Edwards** has raised \$7.4 million during the first three months of 2003, Senator **John Kerry** (Massachusetts) reported that he has raised about \$7 million during that same period (Kerry also has a huge personal family fortune he can tap into), and Representative **Richard Gephardt** (Missouri) reported that he has shifted \$2.4 million from his congressional war chest to his presidential campaign, giving him a total of \$5 million on hand at the end of March.

The campaign of Senator **Joseph Lieberman** (Connecticut) reported that he has raised slightly more than \$3 million during the first quarter of this year, while former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean** reported having raised about \$2.6 million during the first quarter and has about \$3 million on hand at the end of March.

Lieberman explained that his somewhat weak fundraising was the result of having emphasized that he would not become a candidate if former Vice President **Al Gore** were to enter the race and pointed out that he did not announce his candidacy and start raising funds until nearly four weeks after Gore decided not to run.

Other Democratic candidates include former Illinois U.S. Senator **Carol Moseley Braun**, Representative **Dennis Kucinich** of Ohio, and New York activist the Reverend **Al Sharpton**, none of whom had released fundraising numbers as of last week.

Official fundraising numbers by all candidates on amounts raised in the first quarter of 2003 must be filed with the Federal Election Commission in two weeks, and in the past there have

been instances in which the actual numbers reported to the commission varied somewhat from the estimates that candidates released beforehand.

National Democratic observers say they expect that Edwards, Kerry, Lieberman, and Gephardt will end up pretty much in the same ballpark when it comes to funds since all are seasoned political fundraisers, and Lieberman and Gephardt have both run for national office before.

As for early polling among the Democratic presidential candidates, last week's CNN/USA *Today* poll of 450 registered Democrats nationwide (taken during two days, March 14-15) showed Gephardt at 20 percent, Kerry at 16 percent, Lieberman at 15 percent, and the remaining candidates with single digit numbers.

A Zogby American Poll taken around the same time among 515 likely Democratic voters nationwide had Lieberman at 18 percent, followed by Gephardt at 11 percent, and Kerry at 9 percent.

Both Dean and Kucinich are making points with Democratic activists by positioning themselves as antiwar Democrats, but both could pay a political price for that stance once the war in Iraq is over. At any rate, the leading Democratic presidential hopefuls — Kerry, Lieberman, Edwards, and Gephardt — all apparently feel that political dynamics will change enough after the war is over and feel that Bush, much like his father, could be in serious political trouble next year, saddled with a disastrous economy.

## Politics and people

Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut), a supporter of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, was fully aware that he was in San Francisco, the epicenter of national antiwar activism, and he told local supporters last week at the Fairmont Hotel that, "I hope people will judge me by my whole record, one that is a record of being prepared to be tough on questions of security, but also very pro-growth with economic policies, and a very socially progressive record on a whole host of issues like civil rights, human rights, gay rights, and women's rights. I'm taking a position on the war with Iraq that's consistent with what I've believed about the danger **Saddam Hussein** has represented for more than a decade."

Earlier in the week, Lieberman, generally considered the most conservative of the Democratic presidential contenders, endorsed a series of liberal social goals, including affirmative action and an expansion of civil rights protections for gays and lesbians. Lieberman's move was definitely seen as an effort to gain support among liberals, but his bill extending benefits to gay federal employees faces long odds in the GOP-controlled Senate.

A well-known local gay Democratic party activist, whom I've long respected, called me last week to "explain" former Vermont Gov-

ernor Howard Dean's position on using medical marijuana (he's opposed to it). Hey, I like Governor Dean, too, but still don't understand why a physician, of all people, opposes the medical use of pot for people living with AIDS and other illnesses.

Oops: This column last week mentioned a re-election fundraiser that several of Assemblyman **Mark Leno's** (D-San Francisco) supporters are holding for the popular legislator on May 13 at the Mecca restaurant on Market Street (6-8 p.m.); indeed, the fundraiser is still on but I erroneously reported the price of entry as \$1,000 when it should have been \$100 (however, at a Leno event no one is ever turned away due to lack of funds). Again, only \$100 — got it? Phone (916) 441-6855 or fax (916) 441-6857 for tax and info.



Supervisor Bevan Dufty, left, with Jerry Ervin

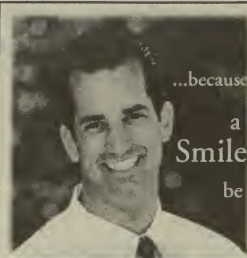
District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** appointed openly gay **Jerry Ervin** to the SF Bicycle Advisory Committee. Ervin, an avid cyclist, is a former board member of Team San Francisco and is on the board of the Federation of Gay Games.

City Hall wags who are supposed to know these things tell me that Chief Administrative Officer **Bill Lee** is considering a run against supervisor **Aaron Peskin** in District 3 next year (I'd place a couple of bucks on Peskin in that one).

The respected daily legal newspaper, the *Recorder*, last week ran a scathing editorial entitled "Hallinan Should Retire." The *Recorder* says that "from nearly the day he won election in 1995, Hallinan has turned the San Francisco District Attorney's office into the legal equivalent of a tornado-prone trailer park, lashed by media storms and political trash talk" and adding that "political calculation has been the hallmark of Hallinan's tenure; after 7 1/2 very long years, it is time for Terence Hallinan to step aside."

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" comes from Assemblywoman **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles), who is 58, reacting skeptically to antigay rights groups' contention that the gay lifestyle reduces longevity to an average of 45 years for lesbians. Goldberg: "I guess I'm living on borrowed time."

And how was your week? ▼



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Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 7:30PM

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# Between Iraq and a hard place

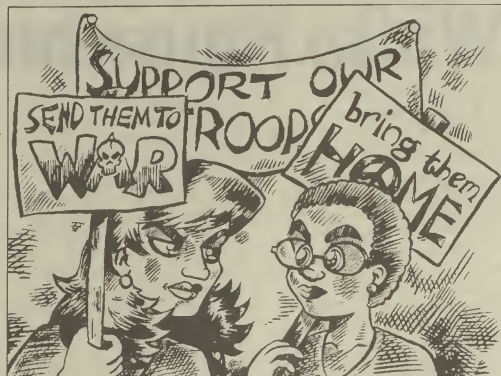
by Paula Martinac

**D**espite massive protests taking place around the world, it's hard to be antiwar in the United States during wartime. Although most of my friends and colleagues are against the war on Iraq, as I am, polls suggest that a majority of Americans support it. Even in liberal urban areas, antiwar sentiment seemed to lose ground after hostilities broke out and images of frightened American prisoners of war were splashed across newspapers and TV screens.

It's especially difficult to be against the war because our government and the media have created an infuriating false dichotomy between those who are antiwar (bad) and those who "support the troops" (good). During the Vietnam War, it's true that antiwar activists erred by heaving a lot of misplaced blame onto those who either didn't dodge the draft or went to war willingly because they saw it as their duty or their job. Today, by comparison, Americans have been earnestly vocalizing their support for troops risking and losing their lives on the front lines in the Middle East.

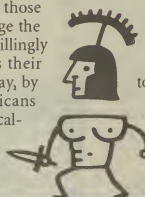
But simply repeating the feverish "support the troops" mantra obscures the fact that those who fight wars and those who make them are two very different groups. Consider, for example, that of our 535 members of Congress, only one has a child in the armed forces; few of our representatives have themselves had to serve in a conflict. (One notable veteran, U.S. Senator John Kerry, returned from Vietnam and became an antiwar activist.) Vice President Dick Cheney has coolly explained that he didn't serve in Vietnam because he had "other priorities" during the 1960s. Veterans have a name for leaders like Cheney and Bush who make war when they themselves have avoided military service — interestingly, they call them "chicken hawks."

I'm against the war, but I don't hold American men and women in uniform responsible for it. Many of them are patriotic young people, straight and gay, who didn't have a lot of economic options and saw the military as a way to gain needed job skills or pay for their education. My partner has noticed a chilling increase in the armed forces' recruitment of students at the urban community



college where she teaches, which serves mostly immigrants and students of color whose families earn an average of \$30,000 a year.

Now these young people are facing the biggest risk that came with their decision to sign up — that their country might actually call on them to fight. In peacetime, some may have only considered war in the abstract; witness the soldiers now cautiously telling embedded journalists that



## Lesbian Notions

war is far worse than they imagined it would be. The conservative *New York Daily News* reported just days before war broke out that many U.S. soldiers had misgivings about attacking Iraq, worries that they expressed to their chaplains. And even some of those eager to fight spoke derisively about taking part in a "do-over war."

And consider this irony: At the same time our president is urging us to "support the troops," he has also proposed slashing \$25 billion from the budget of the Veterans Administration (VA) over the next 10 years. That's a cut that would seriously affect the health-care and disability benefits not only of soldiers from previous wars — about one in four of today's disabled veterans fought in the 1991 Gulf War — but also of those now in Iraq. Most of the leading veterans organizations have vehemently opposed Bush's

proposed VA cuts, and groups like Veterans for Common Sense have gone further and spoken out against the war itself.

Amazingly, although Americans continue to worry about the economy, there's been no public outcry about the economic toll this war will take on all of us — an estimated \$75 billion for just the first 30 days and untold billions more after Iraq is actually "liberated from slavery," to quote Bush-speak. Yet many Americans who lost their jobs in the economic meltdown after September 11 are still unemployed; others have watched their life savings disappear in the stock market or in corporate scandals; millions still have no health insurance; and "homeland security" is a grossly underfunded joke. Not only that, but antiterrorism defense money is being diverted up without regard for which regions are at greatest risk. New Hampshire and Wyoming, for example, will actually receive more money per capita than New York state, home to the country's number-one target for terrorism, where shell-shocked citizens still look up nervously when planes fly too low over the city.

As the war continues, those of us who are against it have a difficult role to play. We must show that, although we disapprove of the war and those who created it, we really do "support the troops" — not just by spouting meaningless slogans, but by having the courage to question the path our country is following. ▼

## Leno apologizes to Leno

by Joe Dignan

**L**ate night TV host Jay Leno called openly gay California Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) on Monday, April 7 to explain and apologize for a joke he made about transgender activist Theresa Sparks, who was Assemblyman Leno's selection for "California Woman of the Year" last month.

Jay Leno, in his monologue on NBC's *Tonight Show* on Monday, April 2, said that the California Assembly "awarded a man who had a sex change as its Woman of the Year. When he accepted the award, he said there was a part of him that didn't want to accept it — but that's gone now."

"He told me that if his joke had offended anyone, it was unintentional, and he was sorry," said Assemblyman Leno.

In the conversation, which Assemblyman Leno reported lasted about half an hour, comedian Leno said he wanted, according to the assemblyman, to "communicate his concern about his joke, and to clarify his support for our community and his sensitivity to the issues."

In defense of his track record on gay and lesbian issues, the comedian told the assemblyman that he was "included" in the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's media award ceremonies.

Jay Leno was a presenter at the 2000 media awards, but has never received an award himself, according to a GLAAD spokesman.

As for Sparks, she said she hopes the matter heightens awareness of the need for better education about transgender issues, but she said the comedian didn't call her to apologize. ▼



## HISTORY LESSON

# What role have LGBT people played in antiwar movements?

by Liz Highleyman

April 1971 (32 years ago this month): Large gay contingents participate in demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco against the Vietnam War.

Just as the struggle surrounding discrimination against LGBT people in the military has long been a major issue within the gay movement, queers have also been active in peace and antiwar movements from World War I to the Vietnam War to the wars in the Persian Gulf.

One of the earliest antiwar organizations, the War Resisters League, was formed in 1923 by activists who had opposed World War I. Among the founders were Tracy Mygatt and Frances Witherspoon, two Bryn Mawr College graduates who lived together in a romantic friendship for more than 60 years and devoted their lives to women's suffrage, peace, and social justice activism.

During World War II, Bayard Rustin, a gay African American activist who would later organize Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington, acted on his Quaker pacifist beliefs and defied a draft summons, leading to two years in federal prison.

In the 1950s, some of the earliest gay activists were political radicals opposed to war. Harry Hay and his comrades recruited members for the Mattachine Society by visiting gay cruising areas and asking people to sign a petition against the Korean War. But over the ensuing decade, homophile activists focused increasingly on ending discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military and government service. During the Vietnam era, tension developed between homophile groups maintaining that military service was inextricably connected to full citizenship rights and gay liberation groups arguing both that the war was wrong and that militaristic culture contributed to queer oppression.

Activism against the Vietnam War brought homosexual politics out of the closet and into the streets. In what the *Advocate* called "one of the largest concentrations of gay power ever assembled," thousands of queers took part in

antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco in April 1971. Many LGBT people came out publicly for the first time at such protests, and radical antiwar politics helped shape the development of the new gay liberation movement. In addition, the draft forced queer men to come to terms with their sexuality. While some heterosexual men avoided conscription by mimicking gay stereotypes, the decision about whether to check the box asking about "homosexual tendencies" was difficult for many gay and bisexual men who feared the long-term consequences of revealing their sexual orientation to the government.

After Vietnam, LGBT participation in peace and social justice efforts continued. Lesbians – many of whom had moved from gay liberation to feminist activism in the 1970s – were key players in movements against nuclear weapons and U.S. military involvement in Central America during the 1980s. Lesbians and bi women were well represented at the 1983 Women's Peace and Justice Encampment outside the Seneca Army Depot in upstate New York. The following decade ACT UP and Queer Nation were heavily involved in protests against the 1991 Persian Gulf War. On January 22 of that year, members of ACT UP/New York, using fake IDs, infiltrated the CBS studios and interrupted the CBS *Evening News* broadcast with shouts of "Fight AIDS, not Arabs."

Many well-known LGBT activists got their start in the antiwar movement. Lesbian-feminist icon Barbara Deming, who was active in antiwar organizing throughout the 1960s, took part in the 1983 Seneca peace encampment and – despite being weakened by ovarian cancer – was arrested and jailed one last time. During the Vietnam War, lesbian author Amber Hollibaugh smuggled draft evaders over the border to Canada. After organizing against Dow Chemical (producer of napalm), Morris Kight turned his energies to the gay movement and in 1971 co-founded the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. Mandy Carter, an African American lesbian who was on the San Francisco WRL staff as a teenager in the late 1960s, helped coordinate the 1987

and 1993 LGBT Marches on Washington. Philadelphia antiwar organizer Kiyoshi Kuromiya moved on to become an outspoken AIDS activist. David Mixner, an organizer of the October 1969 Vietnam Moratorium, later served as LGBT adviser to President Bill Clinton. And Leslie Cagan, who chaired the New York University Committee to End the War in Vietnam, went on to organize numerous antiwar and social justice demonstrations (most recently in New York in February and March 2003).

Today, queers are once again at the forefront of organizing against the new war in Iraq. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has voiced its opposition to the war and – unlike in the first Gulf War, when it stood virtually alone – has been joined by other national LGBT organizations such as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the Metropolitan Community Church, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. And as evidence of the diversity of political opinion within the LGBT community, the Log Cabin Republicans have come out in support of the Bush administration's Iraq policy. But as queer individuals and groups play an active role in antiwar protests, controversy continues over what stance the LGBT movement should take in relation to war – and whether it should take a stance at all. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at [PastOut@black-rose.com](mailto:PastOut@black-rose.com).

## Suggested reading

Lekus, Ian. 2003. "Antiwar, Pacifist, and Peace Movements." In *Encyclopedia of American LGBT History and Culture*, edited by Marc Stein (Scribner).

Suran, Justin David. 2001. *Coming Out Against the War: Antimilitarism and the Politicization of Homosexuality in the Era of Vietnam*. *American Quarterly* 55 (3): 452-488.

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## Dignity's 20th anniversary



Jane Philomeno O'Leary

Dignity/San Francisco, the local chapter of the national group for LGBT Catholics, celebrated its 20th anniversary at the annual "Pax et Bonum" gala Saturday, April 5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Presenters and awardees included from left, Brother Dick Olsen, Angelo Wong, Chris Davis, Ralph Monteiro, Paul Clifford, Jim Remer, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and the Reverend Yvette Flunder.



# East Bay lesbian goes to Baghdad

by Joe Dignan

It's a roughly straight line through the western sands of Iraq from Baghdad to the town of Ar Rutbah and then on to Amman, Jordan. The drive across the desert takes, in the best of times, about 14 hours, but Kara Speltz and the 11 peace activists with her sped along the eerily empty highway. Their ragtag convoy of two taxis and a GMC van, emblazoned with crosses and driven by three Iraqis, fled the capital, which was under siege even as they started the trip back home on March 29.

They had spent three days in Baghdad, viewing what their Iraqi minders said were the craters left by American bomb attacks – even as the bombing was still going on and the American military was advancing on the city.

"I've never put myself in that kind of danger before," said Speltz, a 65-year-old Oakland resident, grandmother, lesbian, activist, and member of Soulforce, an organization that works to combat discrimination against gays and lesbians in religious institutions. She is also a Eucharistic minister at Berkeley's Newman Hall Catholic Church.

Asked why she would take such risks with her own life, Speltz said she "needed to be with the Iraqi people."

"I truly believe that until people committed to nonviolence are willing to take the same kinds of risks as our soldiers are, then nothing will change. We can't sit

home and wring our hands. That means putting our bodies between them and the bombs. We hoped we might be able to stop the war or at least document what was going on," Speltz said.

Shortly after their arrival, she said they were escorted on a visit to the Al Amarya bomb shelter which was, according to Iraqi sources, the target of a U.S. laser-guided "smart bomb" in February 1991 during the first gulf war – killing 422, mainly women and children.

"On the second day, we visited new bomb sites," said Speltz. "We went to a residential neighborhood where 60 people had been killed around a bombed-out house."

But Speltz said she and others in her group were perplexed by the small amount of damage that had been done.

"We could see some damage, but there was something else we couldn't figure out. There were these little holes in the walls all around," Speltz said.

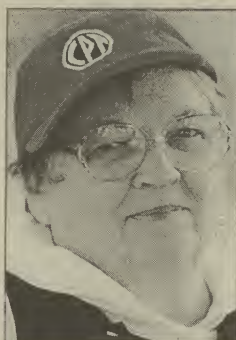
According to Speltz, the group then dug into some of the little cavities and unearthed what she called "little black square pellets."

"Jim Douglas, one of the group, had been a Vietnam War peace activist," Speltz said. "He identified them as anti-personnel weapons."

Speltz said Iraqi people primarily had one question.

"The question always was, 'Why is your government doing this?'" Speltz said. "The only thing we're liberating in Iraq is the oil."

"They understood it was Bush waging the war, not us. People dif-



Baghdad visitor Kara Speltz

ferentiated between us, as visitors, and George Bush. I don't think we do that very well. Remember the backlash against Arabs after 9/11?

"The other thing was the bombing. There was bombing day and night. You just sort of got used to it, but on Friday morning the communications center was destroyed, and we were cut off," Speltz said.

Speltz related that several of her delegation went out, alone, to look at the damage, and were arrested by Iraqi police. Finally the group convinced the police to take them to the hotel where the rest of the delegation was staying – but in the interim their minder had decided to expel the eight who had strayed. The other three decided to go with them.

## Harrowing journey

So, at 9 a.m. on March 29, the

convoy – two taxis, the GMC van, 11 activists and three Iraqis – set off from Baghdad. As they raced along the nearly deserted highway headed toward the Jordanian border, at as much as 80 miles an hour, one of the taxis started to lag behind and slowly disappeared from view.

When the van and the other taxi got to a main crossroads, they waited for the other car. Turning back, they asked a group of what Speltz called Somali students if they had seen the taxi.

"We saw your car, on its side, with no people in it," Speltz said she was told.

As they went back down the highway Speltz said they found the taxi.

"We found the car in a culvert, with blood on the inside," Speltz said.

The remaining taxi and the van drove to the nearby town of Ar Rutbah. The town of about 20,000, a passerby told them, had a hospital and maybe the taxi passengers had gone there.

American jets streaked overhead, Speltz said, bombing by the side of the road as the van and remaining taxi headed for Al Rutbah.

When they got there they found the hospital. Its roof was caved in. Furniture was scattered in the rubble.

"The hospital had been totally destroyed several days before," Speltz said. "But the Iraqis had started a makeshift facility down

the road."

U.S. military officials said earlier this week that they had no knowledge of the bombing.

"There, in front, we saw one of our friends standing outside," Speltz said. The taxi had had a blowout at about 70 miles an hour, the driver lost control, and crashed into the culvert.

"Weldon Nisley, a Seattle Menonite minister, had a broken collarbone and a chipped bone in his shoulder," Speltz said.

"Cliff Kindy had a really bad gash in his head," she added. "I believe he would have died from loss of blood if the Iraqis hadn't taken care of him. Iraqi civilians had put them in the back of a pickup truck. They risked their lives to help our people. They used the few supplies they had."

"If the same thing had happened here in Oakland, I'm not sure we would have done the same thing," Speltz said.

The group, jammed into the van and the remaining taxi, made it back to Jordan on Sunday, March 30, at about 2 a.m. The flight from Amman to JFK Airport in New York City, Speltz said, is about 12 hours.

"Plus another five hours from there to here," Speltz said last week. "I went grocery shopping yesterday. I had to laugh at all this stuff. All these choices I have. The abundance we have. That abundance does ultimately come from the lack that other people have." ▼



"Waitresses for Peace" at the peaceful Saturday, April 5 march in Oakland.

## Oakland protest turns violent

Another antiwar march Sat.

by Liz Highleyman

A protest at the West Oakland docks turned violent Monday, April 7, when police fired on demonstrators with wooden dowels, rubber bullets, bean bags, and concussion grenades. It is believed to be the first use of non-lethal weapons against demonstrators in the U.S. since protests against the war in Iraq began.

Protesters gathered before dawn to picket the shipping terminals of American Presidential Lines and Stevedoring Services of America, two companies that activists say are handling military cargo. Work was stopped at APL when an arbitrator ruled that

longshore workers faced safety concerns if they crossed the protesters' picket line. Workers were waiting for a similar determination at the SSA terminal when police moved in to disperse protesters.

At about 8 a.m. police gave orders to disperse, rushed the crowd outside the SSA terminal with motorcycles, and fired concussion grenades and projectiles. At least a dozen protesters and six longshoremen standing nearby were injured. One woman suffered a large contusion after being hit in the jaw, while several others sustained bloody welts on their backs as they were hit while trying to disperse.

Protesters leaving the dock area

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## NATIONAL NEWS

# Providence mayor addresses Victory Fund

by Bob Roehr

The openly gay mayor of Providence, Rhode Island came to Washington, D.C. last weekend and stirred up enthusiasm among members of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"Even if we do not win an election, it is critical for gays and lesbians to run for office, so that we can educate others about who we are as individuals, and who we are as a community," David Cicilline told the Victory Fund's "Spring into Victory" brunch Sunday, April 6, in Washington, D.C.

Cicilline did not have a problem with winning. Last year he pulled 53 percent of the vote in a four-way Democratic primary, then cruised to an 84 percent general election victory to become mayor of Providence.

"We can use a political campaign as a way of demonstrating to the public that we have many of

the same hopes and dreams of the heterosexual community," he said. "When the public begins to understand that our issues are often the same issues as they care about, we have begun to eliminate bias and break down the walls of ignorance."

"During the campaign I heard the question asked all the time: Is it possible for a gay, Italian-Jewish man, who is a criminal lawyer, to be elected mayor of Providence?"

"I have a gay agenda," Cicilline said he told one conservative voter. "I want to improve public schools, reduce crime in our city, and end corruption. The fellow replied, 'Oh, I have the same agenda.'"

Cicilline described several "unsuspecting agents of change," campaign volunteers "transforming people's minds and hearts, sometimes unknowingly."

"We are still at a point in time in our history that is very, very important for gay and lesbian



Providence Mayor David Cicilline

candidates to identify themselves, because we transform hearts and minds one person at a time. ... But our ultimate goal is to finally reach that point in our history where sexual orientation is completely irrelevant.

"It is our destiny as gay men and lesbians to demonstrate to other people around the world, that we can be effective, dedicated, thoughtful leaders in public service," he said.

Cicilline described a recent meeting where the newly elected Republican governor of the state raised the issue of gay marriage. "If I weren't gay, it never would have been discussed." When gays and lesbians are elected officials, "it changes the dynamics" and forces others to think differently.

Chuck Wolfe, the new executive director of the Victory Fund, recalled how his experience working for Florida Governor Lawton Chiles in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew drove home the fact that "state and local governments make decisions that affect our lives every day."

Several children were at the gathering of more than 300, a presence that would have been unusual a decade ago but has become commonplace, reflecting the growing importance of family issues to the LGBT community.

Sitting beside this reporter was Kolya, an engaging toddler who delighted in joining the applause. Greg Greeley had adopted the boy from an orphanage in the former Soviet Union. A resident of Vir-

ginia, Greeley was aware that his family faces legal challenges that heterosexuals do not.

About 70 percent of elected officials begin their political careers at the local level, and that is where the Victory Fund devotes much of its energy to supporting openly gay and lesbian candidates. The organization is "building the farm team" that can feed good candidates into higher office, said Wolfe. He pointed to Jay Fiset, a member of the Arlington County Board, just across the river in Virginia, who is considering a race for Congress.

"If we want policy change for the gay and lesbian community, then we need people in both [the Republican and Democratic] caucuses to ensure that happens. If you don't have openly gay members, it's not going to happen," said Wolfe.

"I submit that [Arizona Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe] was strengthened internally when he came out of the closet," said former Representative Connie Morella (R-Maryland). She said that Kolbe's speech on trade issues to the Republican National Convention in 2002 represented an important step in the "transformation" of the Republican Party. ▼

## ESPA's Matt Foreman to lead NGLTF

by Zak Szymanski

One month after Executive Director Lorri Jean signaled her departure from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the organization has announced that longtime LGBT advocate Matt Foreman, the executive director of New York's Empire State Pride Agenda, will take over NGLTF's top spot beginning May 12.

Like Jean, who maintained her residence in Los Angeles while working for the Washington, D.C.-based NGLTF, Foreman, 48, will remain in his hometown, although his commute from New York City will be much easier. At press time, Foreman's salary was still in negotiation and unavailable.

As NGLTF's new executive director, Foreman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he is "very excited" and wants to "continue the extraordinary work Lorri Jean has accomplished in building the organization."

Under Jean, NGLTF achieved elimination of all its short and long term debt and created a professional development program; increased annual revenues to an all time high of \$5 million; secured the organization's first \$1 million grant for the expansion of the field organizing and training department; created a field organizing department to focus the organization's political efforts at the state and local level; opened a West Coast office in Los Angeles; and prioritized an anti-racist movement for LGBT equality.

Jean's tenure lasted two years; she replaced the short term executive director Elizabeth Toldeo. Toldeo replaced Kerry Lobel, who is credited with helping to secure NGLTF's reputation as an effective, progressive voice against all oppressions.

Foreman said he will use NGLTF's new financial foundation as a springboard from which to propel the organization further into the national spotlight as the premier progressive LGBT voice.



NGLTF's Matt Foreman

NGLTF will keep the West Coast office open, and will remain focused on local and state initiatives, said Foreman, noting that Jean's efforts led to the defeat of many

antigay ballot initiatives across the country.

"We're finally turning a corner on defeating these negative initiatives and my hope is that we're going to now be able to turn much more aggressively to offensive, pro-equal rights legislation," said Foreman.

### Transgressions

Also noteworthy is the frequency with which Foreman mentioned or was associated with transgender equality, both during the B.A.R. interview and in the NGLTF press release.

"I anticipate both continuing and deepening that working relationship with Matt during his tenure as executive director of NGLTF," said a quote from Moonhawk River Stone, chair of the International Foundation for Gender Education. "I am confident

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## Bathhouses

◀ page 1

is dangerous and a narrow interpretation of the paper. I also would not say the paper supports the policy is not working."

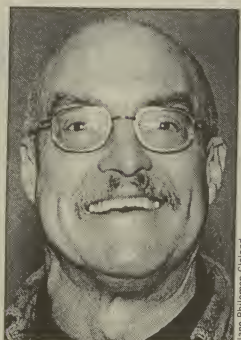
While the study does tend toward the argument against the city's policy, he said it only does so "very cautiously." Also, Woods said respondents may not have correctly understood the difference between a sex club and a bathhouse, which would have impacted their answers to the researchers' questions.

"If it really, really worked you would suspect [the study] to be more supportive than we were able to find," said Woods. "But given the limitations of the study, one would want to be very careful of overstating what this means."

But men who want to see San Francisco reopen its bathhouses argue that the study's findings bolster their argument. For years they have said the policy is flawed. But their contention has fallen on deaf ears among city public health officials.

"I think it is definitely a failure. The policy has presented our sexual encounters in a negative way, not in a way that promotes meaningful sexual connection," said Richard Carrazza, who has long opposed the city's decision to close the bathhouses. "Sex clubs put us in spaces that bring out the darker sides of our sexuality rather than the whole spectrum people have in their sexual preferences."

Advocates for the return of bathhouses have long contended the city's only allowing sex clubs to operate has had unintended consequences which have fueled the spread of HIV and other sexu-



AIDS activist Hank Wilson

ally transmitted diseases. Forcing men to engage in sex in public spaces adds to the use of drugs and alcohol and does more damage than good, they argue.

"My current position is that the lack of private spaces right now is fueling speed use in the community," said Hank Wilson, a longtime AIDS advocate who at first supported keeping the baths open but later changed his mind. "You are forced to perform in a way where if you are high and oblivious to your environment then it makes it easier."

Wilson said his opposition toward the city's policy changed when the bathhouse owners refused to address the AIDS epidemic or work with health officials to develop ways to mitigate the crisis. Now, Wilson said the city should reexamine its policy and allow there to be private spaces again.

"A whole group of guys don't want to have sex in the open. There is a desire for privacy and intimacy," said Wilson. "With the spaces

available now, you don't have that opportunity. If you are shy and want some intimate space and privacy, well we don't have that."

"I want the baths open. I want there to be respect for intimacy. By giving people that privacy, you foster communication that might not happen in a group situation," added Wilson.

The study looked at bathhouse policies in San Francisco, which does not allow private spaces; New York, which allows private but not public spaces; Chicago, which has only mixed spaces, with both private and public spaces; and Los Angeles, which has venues offering all three types of settings. Researchers looked at information from the Urban Men's Health Study, using data from telephone interviews with 827 men who were sexually active and had visited a bathhouse in the past year.

Among the men, the researchers found that those men living in New York and San Francisco, whose cities have rules about the physical arrangement of space in bathhouses, were equally likely to engage in unsafe sex as those men living in Chicago and Los Angeles, the two cities that have no space-specific policy. Also, the study found regardless of where they lived, the men were as likely to have just as many male sex partners and one-night stands.

According to the study, 40 percent of men in San Francisco reported having unsafe sex with a casual partner, whereas 44 percent of New York men, 50 percent of Los Angeles men and 38 percent of Chicago men reported engaging in the same behavior.

The only difference the researchers observed among the men was the number of men who reported having unsafe sex in a

## STD testing campaign for gay men under way

by Matthew S. Bajko

After last year's successful campaign to promote testing for sexually transmitted diseases among gay men, a group of health advocates is once again renewing its call for "spring cleaning."

The idea is for gay men and others to get a regular STD check-up during April. The program is the brainchild of Castrogays, a group of activists, nurses, businesses, doctors, and community members working to create and launch a neighborhood-based sexual health resource center for gay men who live, work or play in the Castro.

That center, to be called Magnet, is slated to open at the beginning of May in a former pharmacy space near the corner of 18th and Castro streets. Until then, a mobile medical van will be sent to both the Castro and South of Market districts this month to conduct the STD tests for those who are interested.

As an incentive to get guys to participate, local businesses are offering free or discounted services and goods, ranging from free coffee and week-long memberships to health clubs to free passes for several sex clubs.

Merchants participating in the program include Blow Buddies; Books Inc.; Castro Gulch; Cliff's Variety; Eros; Folsom Gulch, Hot Cookie, Mack Folsom Prison; Michael Bruno Luggage; Mr S Leather; Muscle System; Power Exchange; Samovar Tea Lounge; and Spike's Coffees & Teas.

For a complete schedule of when and where the mobile van will be, check out [www.castrogays.org](http://www.castrogays.org) or call, toll free 1-877-599-6469. ▼

public setting. San Francisco had the lowest prevalence, with only 8.6 percent, followed by Chicago at 14 percent, New York at 18 percent and Los Angeles having the highest at 24 percent.

### A different time

At the time San Francisco imposed its rule against private spaces, the AIDS epidemic was raging out of control. With the bathhouses closed, public health officials hoped to impede the spread of the epidemic. And it was thought the closure of the bathhouses would send a message to gay men to embrace the safe sex message.

However, the study suggests the city's rule did nothing to change men's sexual behaviors. What it did do is move the behavior behind closed doors outside of the reach of public health officials.

As the study reports, "because the proportion of sexually active bathhouse attendees in San Francisco reported engaging in unprotected anal intercourse was the same as the proportion of men in other cities, the policy apparently influences only where men have risky sex but not whether they have risky sex."

The researchers concluded that no one policy appeared to be sufficient to reduce the overall risk behavior of gay men who go to bathhouses. They also advised policy makers and patrons of the bathhouses to work together in addressing how to regulate such venues "rather than continuing the philosophical debate about these kinds of policies."

Instead of prohibiting the kinds of sex patrons can have, the researchers suggest policies should "encourage bathhouse owners to collaborate with health departments and community-based organizations to identify and provide effective prevention efforts in bathhouses so that the risk behavior is reduced rather than moved elsewhere."

As health officials actively work with the city's sex clubs to promote safer sex among the establishments' patrons, as the *Bay Area Reporter* reported last week, they said they see no reason to read-dress the bathhouse policy.

"For me it is a done deal in the sense there are a lot of other issues at the moment. We have a relatively high level of new HIV infections every year, and now, syphilis

rates are going up," said Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention. "For me, as somebody who works in public health and works for a healthier community, it is not an issue I would take on."

Jeffrey Klausner, the city's director of STD control, said he sees the study results as proof the city's policy has been successful in limiting unsafe sex from happening in the public sex venues.

"We interpret the findings as that the policies promoted safer sex. The policies where there were no closed rooms, private rooms, or locked areas meant less unsafe sex in those specific venues," said Klausner. "Because people in these venues are much more likely to have more partners, to be meeting partners that are a higher risk, are more likely to be highly infectious themselves, our current policies in San Francisco support the idea that people will have less unsafe sex in our commercial sex venues than in venues with closed spaces and locked doors."

Klausner said the risk factors involved in unsafe sex which occurs at someone's home is less of a concern than if it were to happen at a bathhouse.

"If it is occurring at a sex venue, it is much more likely to be related to transmission [of HIV or STDs] than in someone's bedroom," he said. "Certainly, we know if someone has unprotected anal sex in a bathhouse it is much riskier than if they have it in their bedroom just by the nature of the types of sexual encounters and partners they may meet in different venues."

Apart from the occasional outcries against the city's policy, there does not appear to be any concerted movement among San Francisco's gay community to push for the reopening of the city's baths. And city officials are steadfast in their opposition against doing so.

"I hate to say it is a lost cause, but I don't know of much effort being addressed or put to it because of the sexphobia in the city," said Carrazza. "What people have said is if we want to try to get resources for HIV drugs and prevention, how can we ask to provide for opening up the bathhouses? If we really did open them up, they would be a valuable resource to educate people. We would be giving people opportunities to connect in other ways." ▼

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## GAY TRAVEL

# Palm Springs offers gay Tiki getaway

by Matthew S. Bajko

Can't afford to fly to those faraway islands in the Pacific? Then a bit of Polynesian pampering can be had in Palm Springs.

At the gay-owned and operated Indianola - A Tiki Resort, gay travelers can check in to a world accented with Polynesian-style kitsch. And a bit of Doris Day folklore to boot.

Built in the 1950s and billed as the Indianola Lodge, the 11-room resort sits in the city's historic movie colony neighborhood. Renovated by owners and partners Michael Glenner and Steven Rockwell, the property offers a secluded oasis away from the larger gay resorts.

Rooms range from the tongue and cheek Lakanooki Hut and Mahini Aloha suites to the King Kamoniwannalayu and Doris Day suites. During the resort's heyday in the 1950s, Day would stay at the Indianola, always requesting the same room. Rumor has it that



The pool at Indianola - A Tiki Resort in Palm Springs.

Rock Hudson would sneak over to visit her during her stays.

The resort's furniture also has ties to old Hollywood. The late photographer Herb Ritts's father, founder of the Ritts Furniture Company of Los Angeles, specially designed furnishings for the various rooms. Locked away in a storage space for years, the current owners discovered the stored away pieces and used them to decorate the resort.

The rooms surround a kidney-

shaped pool, and the courtyard area is outfitted with hand-crafted Tiki gods, a bamboo fountain leading to a tropical Koi pond, thatched umbrellas and Tiki torches aglow at night. Upon arrival, guests are greeted with a tropical lei and a Coco Kahini drink served in a coconut glass.

"The focus is on comfort and relaxation with an added dash of camp," explained Rockwell. "You might say it's very Ward and June

Cleaver visits Gilligan's Island."

As with most gay resorts in Palm Springs, the Indianola is clothing optional, or as the owners quip, "clothing is tolerated." For those more modest, guests are provided with island-themed sarongs and grass skirts.

With such amenities as retro 1950s Schwinn Cruiser Classic bicycles for guests to use, pool-side complimentary breakfasts, a complimentary pool-side cocktail hour on weekend nights, even a library of adult films for guests to borrow, it is easy to think of this as a weekend getaway at a friend's house. In fact, the owners bill their place as a "Polynesian Pop" retro 1950s-style Tiki guest house.

The tropical theme need not end once guests take in the city's nightlife. Nearby the resort is Toucan's Tiki Lounge, a popular gay bar and club, where giant Tiki gods watch over the dance floor.

Or visitors need not leave their rooms. Most have fully equipped kitchens and the owners keep an honor bar fully stocked with beer, soda, tea, and water.

## Spring flowers in Yosemite

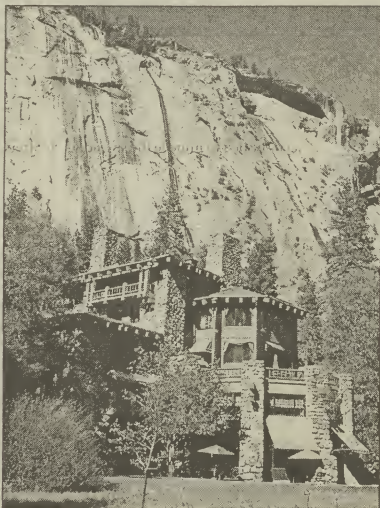
by Matthew S. Bajko

Before the crush of summer tourists descends on Yosemite, spring offers an ideal time for gay and lesbian visitors to take in the splendor of California's most breathtaking natural park.

The season is a showcase for the wildflowers that bloom in the higher elevation meadows and waterfalls surging from the melting snowpacks covering the numerous mountain peaks.

Another added advantage - the off-peak season allows gay and lesbian visitors a chance to feel not only at peace with nature but less inclined to slip back into the closet. Plus the sight of two men or women backpacking through the woods is a common occurrence in Yosemite's high country.

"I certainly get the feeling there is a mix of people who go there. With most of the tourists, you look around and do not feel like there are a lot of gay people there. But then you look at the park rangers and you don't feel so alone



Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel in the summer.

anyone," remarked East Bay resident Eric Jansen, who tries to visit Yosemite at least once a year.

Established in 1890, Yosemite National Park encompasses nearly 1,200 square miles in the heart of California's Sierra Nevada. A four-

hour drive from San Francisco, the park is home to the city's water supply, the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. It is also host to some of the most photographed geological structures, including Half Dome, El Capitan and Bridalveil Fall, a 630 foot high waterfall that serves as an unofficial greeter to those entering the valley floor.

"Personally, I like getting up there. It is such a different scene from being in the city. It renews me to be out in nature," said Jansen. "There is a big stereotype that the gay idea of camping is being in a Motel 6. These days there are a lot more gay men and lesbians who like doing outdoor stuff and don't mind sleeping in a tent."

For those who prefer indoor accommodations over outdoor, Yosemite offers several hotel options, including the Ahwahnee, the park's historic hotel built specifically in 1927 to lure East

Coast city dwellers out West.

Right outside the park is the gay-friendly Yosemite View Lodge. The hotel, which has played host to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, sits alongside the Merced River and most of its rooms include a double spa tub, balcony, and faux fireplace.

Visitors with some trepidation of traipsing through the park's hiking trails on their own can arrange guided nature hikes as well as camping trips with Yosemite Guides, which is located at the lodge along Highway 140 in El Portal. The company was founded by Peter Mayfield, a rock climbing enthusiast who grew up in Berkeley with gay dads.

Mayfield and his naturalists are the perfect tutors as they lead hikes and describe plants, animals, and rock formations along the trail. They also produce a picnic dinner for their entourage once atop one of Yosemite's peaks, reading from the works of John Muir, the East Bay naturalist who helped establish the park.

For information about Yosemite's accommodations, call (209) 372-1000 or visit [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com). For information about the Yosemite View Lodge or Yosemite Guides, call 1-888-742-4371. ▼

## Gov. Davis

◀ page 1

ples when they say 'I do' this is incremental," said Janet Stanley, executive director of the Pacific Pride Foundation in Santa Barbara. "As a lesbian who has been a political activist for 25 years I say 'Jesus, it's about time.'"

Paul Hogan, the Northern California co-chair of the state Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus, said he sees no reason to alter the scope of AB205 and does not support watering the bill down in any way.

"This is a reasonable, measured advance of LGBT rights and I hope something the governor can get behind," said Hogan. "The problem is where do you draw the

line? Which of these equal rights would [Davis] feel is appropriate to take away from the LGBT community and tell us to wait for?"

Advocates said the news was also disheartening since the community had decided not to pursue civil union legislation this year in deference to the governor, who has been more supportive of the concept of domestic partnerships.

Since he took office, Davis has overseen the largest expansion of domestic partner rights than any other governor. He has been steadfast in his opposition to gay marriages and has declined to take a position for or against civil unions.

### No task force

Last spring in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Davis

said he was forming a task force to review the issue of civil unions. The task force never met, and Davis lost a court battle with conservative groups who had sued him to get information about the makeup and meeting minutes of the supposed task force.

"When held up against the possibility of a civil unions bill, I think he realizes this would be a better way to go," said Hogan. "I would be somewhat disappointed if we didn't get the bill as written. I think this is the time for AB205 and I hope Assemblywoman Goldberg's office has some spirited discussions with the governor's office on what the final version of this bill is going to look like."

During the press call last week, Bauman said the motivation behind reviewing the text of Gold-

berg's bill is to ensure it does not violate Proposition 22, which voters approved in 2000 and defines marriage solely between a man and a woman. According to Bauman, the bill refers to marriage more than 25 times within its text.

"The Prop. 22 folks are already screaming that we are already in violation of Prop. 22 and declared that this bill is marriage in every sense of the bill in every sense of the word," said Bauman.

In fact, the religious right has labeled the bill a "terrorist attack against marriage and democracy" and has already launched a campaign against passage of the legislation. While such language may in the long run work against them, the conservative right is still viewed as a serious threat to get-

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Room rates begin at \$99 per night and during the spring and summer months, are usually booked weeks in advance. The resort is also a "pet-friendly establishment" and welcomes all well-behaved pets, charging a \$25 per pet fee.

For more information, visit the resort's Web site at [indianola-tiki.com](http://indianola-tiki.com) or call 1-866-468-8454. ▼

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# Being a free spirit can be costly

by Matthew Smith

I lazily stirred my drink and stared into space one recent Saturday night, paying cursory attention to the conversations going on around me. The dinner party was your standard mix of young gay teachers: a few boy-next-door elementary school teachers, a pair of hardened and bitter junior high teachers, and a salty lesbian social studies teacher to round things off and keep things interesting.

They sipped wine and looked soulful while discussing a plethora of issues facing young gays today. The conversation moved from the topic of communism to all the European countries now legalizing gay adoption and back again seamlessly as if scripted. I wanted to interject a cogent point about communism and rights of lesbian parents that I had seen on a recent episode of *Golden Girls*. It's the one where Stan's cousin, who may or may not be a lesbian, visits from communist Russia and the wacky cultural misunderstandings are resolved in a half hour. But as I moved cold mashed potatoes around my plate, it felt somehow inappropriate to bring up.

As shallow people go, I don't think I am any less socially aware than the average person. Sure, whenever someone hands me a flier for some sort of important thing while walking around the city I'm more likely to wrap my gum in it than read it, but that's beside the point. When I'm around my gay friends and I have nothing to say about gay adoption or what have you, I feel especially ashamed and inadequate. There's a feeling that we're all in this together and in the same boat, and I'm the deadbeat dangling my feet over the sides about to tip us over.

There seems to be an idea among some gay people that if you don't particularly care about discussing gay politics and issues then you must be stupid and self-absorbed. I have felt the sting of

this personally. Not too long ago I found out the real reason why a nice young man didn't want to go on a date with me: because I can't discuss politics. That's verbatim. I was taken aback for a few seconds but then I pictured a quiet, candlelit dinner with him in a cozy bistro. I imagined him going on about the state of American politics while I fiddled with my napkin and sang songs in my head. Repulsed, I forgot about him right away. If one generally prefers to talk about interesting and humorous topics, well then there's no topic more deeply unfunny than American politics. I avoid it when it comes up in conversation and try to direct dates and dinner party pals to the really tough questions in life: Should I cut my hair?

Among straight people, free spirits dot the landscape like exto-

ic wildflowers. If you breed and you read only the Style section of the newspaper then you are considered one of those creative types without a care in the world which is a refreshing character trait to have in these cynical times. On the other hand, if you have those same values and are thrown into the messy gay world, well then you more likely reside in the murky territory occupied by a certain gay male character on a particular must-see show that not all gay folks are proud to call their own.

Which is why, once in a while, I try to fake a social conscience in front of a bunch of hip, socially aware young people. And it almost always backfires. A while back there was a rally at Chrissy Field, I can't be bothered to remember what it was for exactly, and I wanted to show the gang I knew what

they were talking about. Who was Chrissy Fields, I asked? Did she put out great snacks and was that the reason everyone was going to "rally" at her place? The silence that met my innocent questions told me all I needed to know about what these people thought about my devil-may-care attitude. If I were with a group of young straight people as opposed to a group of young gay kids I doubt I would have felt like I had just been handed my queer walking papers.

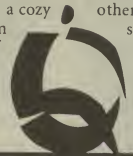
Being young and gay today has less gravity to it than even a couple years ago. Most young gay people I know have few hang-ups about who they are and the issues they face. The feeling of inadequacy and the idea that one is letting other gay people down if one doesn't make noise about the issues we all face denigrates the experience of gay people as a whole. It's okay to bring the issues up just like it's okay to stay quiet. To say otherwise locks us in an inferior

position.

So maybe we aren't all in the same boat. Maybe now we're a fleet of a bunch of different boats and the people on them have their own ideas and opinions, each one different from the next. ▽

To find out about writing a future "Generation Q" column, please e-mail

Ned\_the\_red@yahoo.com. All lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people age 25 and under are welcome to join the group of writers. No experience is required. All that is required is a different experience and the will to tell it. Because of the age of some of the writers or the fact that they may not be out to their families or face other circumstances, the authors of this column may only be identified by their first names.



Generation Q

## Drastic health cuts proposed

by Joe Dignan

The San Francisco Department of Public Health is planning cuts to its budget that could eliminate San Francisco's AIDS help line, end all HIV-positive group counseling programs at the AIDS Health Project, and remove all funding for Shanti's volunteer support services.

The proposed cuts, which total nearly a million dollars, will have varying effects on the organizations that provide the services funded by them.

The University of California, San Francisco-affiliated AIDS Health Project is facing a cut of \$354,000, which would eliminate all funding for its support group program for HIV-positive people. Each week, 225 people go to the

groups for psychological support in dealing with HIV disease.

"Some of those people are going to have a very hard time," predicted AHP Executive Director Jim Dille. "Some will end up in the psychiatric wards of the general hospital."

At AHP, six employees would lose their jobs.

"It's a big part of what we do," Dille added. The funding makes up about 7 percent of the agency's approximately \$5 million budget.

By contrast, at the large San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the cut amounts to less than 1 percent of the organization's \$16.6 million budget. The foundation's AIDS help line, which DPH helps pay for, is also funded in part by the state, and it is unclear what the foundation would do if the city funding were removed.

"We would probably have to reduce staffing – and conceivably would have to eliminate the program," said Dana Van Gorder, SFAF's director of state and local affairs.

The potential cuts at Shanti would eliminate \$475,000 in funding, which provides paid staff to coordinate the organization's volunteer efforts. That money, about 9 percent of the agency's \$5.2 million budget, according to Executive Director Hywel Sims, goes to coordinate the work of about 200 volunteers who help people with HIV and AIDS with everything from emotional support to shopping trips and other practical tasks.

The San Francisco Health Commission heard testimony about these cuts, and other possible cuts in service Tuesday, April 8, its last budget meeting before sending the proposed budget to the mayor's office for review. The

mayor is required by the city charter to produce a balanced budget by June 1.

At Tuesday's meeting, Dr. Mitchell Katz, the department's director, outlined the city's dire financial situation. San Francisco faces a \$347 million gap in its approximately \$5 billion budget. The mayor has asked all departments to cut 6 percent from their budgets this year, but even with that, the mayor's office predicts a shortfall of approximately \$200 million.

To make up the \$200 million, the city hopes to extract concessions from its union workers, asking them to make \$80 million in pension fund payments. It is also counting on the state government to roughly triple the vehicle license fee and dump another \$45 million into the city's coffers. The city also plans to dip into contingency funds to the tune of another

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## Oakland protest

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marched back toward the West Oakland BART station, stopping to block traffic at the intersection of Maritime and 7th streets. Police again used wooden and rubber bullets to break up the crowd and several more protesters were injured. After regrouping at the BART station, about 300 activists marched to the Oakland Federal Building.

In total some 30 people were arrested, including an International Longshore and Warehouse Union official. Most were released by late Monday evening.

Activists were outraged at the police response. "I've never seen this level of violence in response to a community picket," said veteran organizer David Solnit.

Two Oakland City Council members, Jane Brunner and Nancy Nadel, have called for an investigation of police behavior. Nadel said the police reaction was "entirely inappropriate."

While most of the estimated 700 demonstrators were peaceful, police said some protesters threw rocks and iron bolts at them. In addition, Oakland Police Chief Richard Word said his officers had to use force to disperse the crowd because they feared more protesters would convene at the docks and police would be "overwhelmed." Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown expressed support for the police response.

Activists had declared Monday a national day of direct action against the war. Around the Bay Area, other protests took place at

next page ▸



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# OBITUARIES

## Robert William Fenn

September 26, 1955 —  
January 7, 2003



Robert William Fenn passed away January 7, 2003 in Zine House, San Francisco, California.

He was born to James and Mary Ellen Fenn on September 26, 1955 in Long Beach, California. He lived in various parts of this country and England, where his father was an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

He was loved by his family and will be missed dearly by his mother Mary Ellen of Guerneville, California, brothers James of San Francisco, California, and Richard of Dallas, Texas, and sister Mary Sherwood of Fort Worth, Texas.

Robert loved his nieces Candi, Autumn and Allison, and his nephews Richard, Jr. and Samuel of Dallas.

Memorial contributions may be made in Robert's name to the American Cancer Society, any AIDS food bank, or to Face to Face.

## Kenton H. Neidel

Kenton H. Neidel died on Wednesday,

March 12, 2003, the beloved son of Edgar and Marion Neidel, dear brother of Nancy Barkus and Lori Neidel, dear friend to many in San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and New York City.

Our friend, relative, playmate and lover, Kenton has finally found his wings and flown off to his "mansion in the sky." Among all that he found time for in work and play, he will be remembered for his tireless work on behalf of people with AIDS at Hand in Hand and Southwest CARE Center (Santa Fe) and his work with the homeless (San Francisco).

From volunteer to mentor, Kenton was an inspiration for those who served and those in need.

## Jerold David Norman

Jerold David Norman died after a long battle with AIDS on October 27, 2002 at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. He was born May 24, 1944 in Yakima, Washington. His father was Lt. (jg) John Jerold Norman, then on wartime active duty with the United States Naval Reserve. His mother was Judith McWhorter Norman, now Judith McWhorter Goodwin of Redmond, Washington. He was baptized into the Christian faith at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon in 1948.

Mr. Norman grew up in Portland where he graduated from Wilson High School, Class of 1962. He spent the last

30 years of his life in the Bay Area and San Francisco where he worked as an automobile mechanic. He is survived by his mother and by his sister Rebecca Campbell Nelson of Boring, Oregon. His ashes were placed in the San Francisco Columbarium. It was his request that any remembrance be made to the San Francisco AIDS Memorial Park. He wanted it said that he tried to live his life to stand for love, compassion, and hope.

## David Joseph Wethered

October 8, 1972 — February 1, 2003



David lost a long battle with cryptococcal meningitis at the all-too-young age of 30, and after extended and superb care at the Davies Medical Center. Born in San Diego, he made San Francisco his home for the last decade and more. He was fascinated by and quite talented with computers. With his charm and his lovely smile he made many friends here who will mourn him, especially his roommate, David Berry. He is survived by his foster mother, Ms. Carol Durkee, and foster sister, Cristina, both of San Diego.

His ashes will be interred in the

AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, April 12th at noon (from Stanyan, John F. Kennedy Dr. to Middle Drive East, left to Bowling Green. We'll meet at that corner). For more information call the Rev. Rob Rhudy at 928-7558, or Mr. Berry at 441-5675 and leave a number if you get a voice mail.



Sean Marc Ramirez  
8-28-64 / 4/11/02

Not a day goes by without us thinking of you. First comes the tears then in time a smile. Your Spirit continues to guide us through life. We all love and miss you.



## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## NGLTF

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Matt will successfully build upon the strong foundation of transgender inclusiveness which Lorri Jean and Kerry Lobel have established at NGLTF.

Not coincidentally, Foreman's last dance in the media spotlight was for ESPA's advocacy on New York's landmark gay rights law, known as the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, which passed last December after more than 30 years of lobbying. Foreman was the target of much criticism for refusing to push for gender identity inclusion in the non-discrimination bill, which he and others believed would lead to the bill's defeat. For groups like the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy, Foreman's justifications rang hollow.

"It is important to point out here that ESPA has never told legislators in Albany that transgender inclusion is crucial to them," said an open letter from the NYAGRA addressing Foreman's claim that legislators would not back a gender-inclusive bill.

For transgenders, gender-variant people, and other queers, Foreman's compromise was a sell out, and certainly not in line with NGLTF's unwavering and inclusive fighting spirit.

But Foreman told the B.A.R. that as NGLTF's executive director, he is well aware that it will be his responsibility to criticize people who, like himself, compromise within the political arena. In fact, he said, he welcomes such a duty.

"I view this as a return to my roots, which are very activist, very much about marches and demos and getting arrested, and being able to speak the truth to power," said Foreman. "The kind of tactics I enjoy would have been counterproductive in New York for an 'inside politics' organization, where you have to maintain relationships

with power for the long-term benefit of the entire LGBT community. But I'm very much looking forward to going to an organization that has a long history of being able to speak loudly and forcefully against the right without having to compromise its voice."

Foreman acknowledged, however, that his commitment to transgender equality and inclusion may be a hard sell to those who are still upset over SONDA.

"I am committed 100 percent to trans equality and inclusion in our movement," said Foreman. "I understand people may have questions about that but time will tell. The proof will be in the product that's delivered and I'm confident I'm going to be able to deliver."

## Early work in prisons

In addition to leading the fight on SONDA, Foreman and his team at ESPA are credited with many statewide gains in New York, including the passage of a hate crimes bill in 2000; a law repealing the consensual sodomy statute in 2000; four laws extending equal benefits to surviving domestic partners of those killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks, passed in 2002; and the appropriation of \$11.8 million specifically for non-HIV related LGBT health and human services from 1998-2002.

Before joining ESPA, Foreman was executive director of New York City Anti-Violence Project from 1990 to 1996. Foreman's combination of case advocacy and street activism helped to galvanize the community's response to a surge in hate violence in the early 1990s and forced the police department to devote greater resources to the crisis.

Foreman's earliest work was within the corrections system, advocating for clemency for prisoners with unfair sentences in West Virginia, then facilitating a work release program on New York's

Riker's Island. It is a career, he said, that taught him about the problems with the justice system as well as the benefits of fighting for change from the inside.

"When you're actually working with both inmates and officers you get to understand the tragedy and travesty that is the criminal justice system," said Foreman. "I was proud to work inside the system and try to make it better; I saw lawyers working 10 years on a suit when I could do something inside in a matter of days."

"For all change, we need people on the inside as well as people on the outside pushing the envelope. That's the critical role of the task force: pushing the envelope."

Foreman's life as a gay New Yorker also included his co-founding of Heritage of Pride, the producers of New York's Pride Parade; membership in Dignity/NY, an organization of LGBT Catholics; serving as grand marshal of the Pride Parade in 2001; and recently, being appointed to the New York City Commission on Human Rights by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The next several years, said Foreman, will be entirely NGLTF-focused, fostering connections and building coalitions nationwide.

"There are endless opportunities to work with so many unsung heroes that are toiling in relative isolation across the country," he said.

With a return to his activist roots, said Foreman, don't be surprised if he winds up arrested during a demonstration.

"I hope people visit me in jail," he joked.

And, unlike his recent predecessors, Foreman said he is in the NGLTF position for the long haul.

"I want to be at the task force a minimum of four years and I'd like to be there much longer than that," said Foreman. "I figure I've still got a few good years of movement life in me, and I'd like to spend them all at the task force." ▼

will be a march to Dolores Park.

Queer community speakouts for peace are continuing each Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at Castro and Market. Another large antiwar march, this one from Justin Herman Plaza to the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park, is planned for April 26. ▼

Full disclosure: Liz Highleyman worked as a street medic at the Oakland protest on Monday.

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## Oakland protest

◀ previous page

the San Francisco Federal Building and the Concord Naval Weapons Station. In addition, seven students were arrested for blocking an Interstate 280 off-ramp, and nine were detained at a demonstration in front of Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-California) local office.

Last Saturday, April 5, hundreds of demonstrators held a peaceful

protest in Oakland. Organized by the Peace and Justice Coalition, the march and rally was designed to draw people of color to the antiwar movement.

Activists are continuing to plan antiwar protests for the coming weeks. The next large rally and march will take place at noon this Saturday, April 12, at Civic Center Plaza. Activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca said a queer contingent will gather at 11 a.m. at U.N. Plaza near Hyde Street. At about 1 p.m. there



# Dance on

by Jim Provenzano

Elegant gowns swirl as span-gled shirts sparkle under the ornate frame of an elegant dance hall. Ballroom dancing has become one of the most popular of Gay Games events. Yet in America same-sex partnering is rare, if not often banned. Sydney saw some of the most talented of competitors in this event, and dozens from the Bay Area competed. It's only the second time ballroom dance has been included at the Games.

Douglas Mitchell teaches at Metronome and trained with his partner, Rob Allen.

His life partner, Richard Lamberty, also competed (placing fifth in the men's standard class A), and trained several San Francisco and East Bay dancers.

Mitchell competed in ballroom, but not Latin. Each style has five variations, which dancers are required to know.

"Ballroom isn't any harder than Latin," Mitchell said. "It's a choice to do either one, the other or all. That's what makes it a competition. You have to decide. The more focused you are, the better you are. If you decide to do all ten, you really have compete in all."

While Americans danced in abundance, the European and Australian communities had a greater presence.

"The Germans were amazing,"

said Mitchell. "They have a history and have local competitions. We don't and we're kind of silly about that."

Last year, Metronome held the benefit for those who competed in Sydney. Mitchell helped organize the fundraiser, and teaches beginning level and private lessons. Metronome has 45 classes in international, American style, ballroom, Latin, swing, nightclub dances, tango, and other trendy steps.

"It's a very well thought out course listing," he said.

And while there aren't specific GLBT classes, people can pair off however they choose. "We're very open here, and provide an education," Mitchell said. "We're inclusive, but

not same-sex only."

Other outlets include Allegro Ballroom in Emeryville, the Sundance Association for country, waltzing, and cha cha, the only venue besides Women's Night Out in the East Bay.

Mitchell is aware of the limitations elsewhere. "This whole industry has always been based on male-female roles," he said. "We allow them to come here and try it. You need enough support to keep it going."

Of his Sydney experience, Mitchell is happy. "We were in the top 13 in the world. We didn't make finals, but were gold level C, then we got bumped into A. We hadn't practiced the Viennese

waltz in two years."

Why the combination of fabulous dancing and passionate appreciation from audiences, which were mostly other competitors?

"It's because we have rarely been allowed the opportunity to express this form of art," he said. "It gives us a goal, something to put our passion into. This gives us an opportunity to make it real."

Back here in the U.S., same-sex ballroom dancing in competitions is basically outlawed.

"The NDCA [National Dance Council of America] rules don't allow us to compete together," Mitchell said. "We're not allowed to do that in local competitions, so we created one in 1998."

According to Mitchell, one of the head coaches of the NDCA, Lee Wakefield, tried to prevent it from happening again.

"But organizers want us, because it's revenue for them," said Mitchell. "We're in San Francisco, so we should be able to do what we want here. They have no right to sanction anything that's local. We had 47 entries, and took in a lot of money."

Being gay or lesbian is irrelevant to the dancing, he said. "One was a mother-daughter team. It was about the opportunity. It's about leading and following with another person. It's more creative, because you can switch roles. You become more creative and flexible as a dancer. Just because people have gender issues, it limits us."

## Dancehall gals

Barbara Zoloth competed in



Glitter and be gay:  
Aussie ballroom dancers

ballroom dancing in Sydney and has danced around the Bay Area for years. She started as a kid, in Florida.

"I'd always loved partners dancing, but I wanted to lead," she said. "It felt better. Dancing is a really interesting metaphor for life. I like to know where I'm going."

A year ago, she started dancing with partner Zoe Balfour, who runs a Friday night women's dance in Oakland. Zoloth and Balfour won a silver medal in modern B grade level D.

"We figured we'd have a good chance, but we didn't expect to get a medal," Balfour also competed in the Latin over-45 women's category, and won another silver medal.

In a brief minute and half, a swift array of skills have to be displayed, while watching out for the other competitors whirling around the dance floor.

"Most everybody goes through the routine more than once in a minute," she said. "It's defined by the walls, however many times you go around the room."

Zoloth said it's harder in the earlier rounds, because of the traffic. Courting the attention of judges, who walk around the dance floor, is expected, but shouldn't mar a pair's technique.

The trained eye can see more experienced dancers switching roles in the middle of a routine.

"That is specifically unique to same-sex dancing, something that we invented," said Zoloth. "The creativity - how to switch and make it look smooth in the middle of the dance - is what makes it different."

With so many dancers returning from Sydney enthused, instructor Lamberty is planning a same-sex ballroom event in San Jose in July. More than 40 dancers from the Bay Area competed in Sydney.

Of course, costumes play a festive part in the dance competitions. Zoloth wore simple tuxedo pants with a shirt and vest, while her partner Balfour donned "a few fancy dresses."

Along with the sheer pleasure of dancing, Zoloth agrees that it does make a statement.

"I think it's a political event," she said. "It's very hard to go out into the straight dance world where your orientation doesn't matter."

## Quick change

Jeffrey Claussen and his dance partner Dan Goldes took fifth place in division D men's modern category.

"Not bad," said Claussen, "since Dan had only danced for four months prior to competing."

The San Francisco residents took up lessons only four months before Sydney's Games. Goldes

had done some square dancing and country western dancing for a few years. "So I had a sense of what it was about," he said.

"My whole experience felt very much like the film, *Strictly Ballroom*," Goldes said with amusement. "I was an inexperienced person being thrown into this world, and they all knew how it works. It was all very new to me. Fortunately, I hooked up with a local group who knew what they were doing. Our coach, Richard Lamberty, is very experienced."

Claussen and Goldes practiced all over town, and danced at last year's Metronome benefit. The small group that Lamberty coached also met on Tuesday nights in Oakland, or at Allegro Ballroom in Emeryville, which became a learning experience for everyone.

Said Goldes, "It was clear they weren't used to seeing men dancing together, but they were supportive."

Having never been to a ballroom competition, or competed in one, Goldes said, "The thing that really warmed my heart, was that everybody who danced got a wonderful round of applause, even people in E and D grade. I felt that we were just as welcome. It really made me feel that the slogan of participation and inclusion was put into practice."

"It was a wonderful experience to get out there. I understand that's quite different than the straight ballroom dance world, where it's much more competitive."

"Because I was such a newbie, and with a group of people with so much experience, I felt an intense amount of pressure," said Goldes. "But the minute I went out and started dancing, all my anxiety disappeared. We danced better that day than ever before."

While not required, ballroom includes the festive tradition of competitors changing into new costumes for each successive round.

"Jeffrey made our outfits, cutting, measuring, trying them on me," said Goldes. "It was quite fun. I'm not at all fashion-inclined, so I let him take the lead." They decided on austere gray pants and vests.

"When they announced that we were in the finals, I was shocked," he said. "We had to run across the street and buy new shirts and ties."

Fortunately, being in the center of downtown Sydney, they had several discount clothing stores only a block away.

For Goldes, it served as an additional lesson: "Always plan your wardrobe as though you're going to place in finals."

Info: Metronome Ballroom: [www.metronomeballroom.com](http://www.metronomeballroom.com). The National Dance Council of America: [www.ndca.org](http://www.ndca.org). For photos of Claussen and Goldes, visit: [www.home.earthlink.net/~dgoldes1](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~dgoldes1).

## Tuaolo-down

Celebrated gay former pro football player Esera Tuaolo will speak at Canada College today (Thursday, April 10) at noon in the Main Theater, 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, in Redwood City. The Office of Student Life and the Rainbow Alliance are sponsoring the event, in which the former Atlanta Falcon will talk about his experience being a closeted athlete who played for five different teams and competed in Super Bowl XXXIII. Info: (650) 306-3100. ▼

For previous articles, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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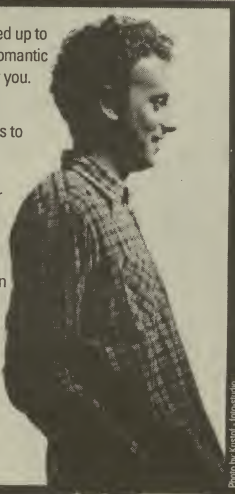
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## CLASSIFIEDS

## Gov. Davis

◀ page 15

ting AB205 passed.

"They are organized, they have a lot of financial support from the far right, and unless our community and allies stand up for what is right and support our efforts, it becomes a tougher battle to win," said Geoff Kors, executive director of CAPE, which is shortening its name to Equality California. "The way we pass legislation on something this monumental and in its first year is by standing together and allowing our voices to be heard."

Kors said that no matter how the bill is written conservatives will most likely try to overturn it at the ballot box. For that reason, he said any measure signed by the governor should be as strong as possible.

"If the bill only provides partial rights and responsibilities there may still be a ballot initiative and how interested is the community going to be in spending the resources and putting in the time for something that is considerably less equal?" asked Kors. "The way a ballot measure can be successfully beaten is to make sure this bill provides as close to marriage equality under state law as is possible. And that is what the bill presently does."

## A bellwether?

All the Republican members of the Judiciary Committee voted against the bill last week and conservative groups have targeted Democrats in more conservative areas of the state in order to keep them from voting for it.

Gay rights advocates said that tactic contributed to Democratic Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson's abstaining from voting on the measure last week. Jackson is termed out of her Santa Barbara district seat next year and is looking to run in a predominantly Republican state Senate district.

Jackson's leaving the hearing during debate on AB205 surprised many advocates, especially since she has a long record of supporting gay rights in the past. Jackson signed on as a co-sponsor of last

year's domestic partner bill AB25 and did vote last week in support of another gay bill, AB17, which would require state contractors to offer benefits to the domestic partners of their workers.

Jackson did not return a call seeking comment, but legislators who have spoken to her said she has also expressed the same concern about the reach of AB205 as has the governor.

"In my own conversations with her, she indicated she thinks that a more incremental approach will better serve our final goal. It is a difference of opinion," said openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). "Of course we would prefer to have Assemblywoman Jackson vote with us, but I believe we can prevail without [her vote]."

Whether Jackson's decision to abstain is a bellwether for how some other Democrats will vote remains to be seen. To date, supporters of the bill said they are still short of the 41 votes needed to send the legislation on to the state Senate.

"We have always known the 41 votes is going to be a vote by vote struggle, but I still think it is doable," said openly gay Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz). "I feel like we have gotten some good support and we are a significant part of the way there."

Duran said proponents are in a "critical uphill battle to get the bill out of the Assembly. People should not assume we are even going to be able to get it to the governor's desk."

LGBT organizations are planning on holding a lobby day on behalf of AB205 in May and are asking members of the community to write to lawmakers urging them to support the bill.

Of particular concern are the many Democrats from conservative rural areas who do not have gay and lesbian constituents pressuring them to support the bill. Another key group waffling on support for the legislation are Latino lawmakers, said Duran.

"One key area of friction is between Latino Democrats and gay and lesbian Democrats. Latino Democrats from the Central Valley are a voting bloc we are not reaching on AB205," said Duran. ▼

## Health cuts

◀ page 16

er \$75 million.

For DPH, that means the best case, if all the unions fall in line and the VLF money comes in, will be about \$12 million in general fund cuts. The worst case: about \$27 million.

The \$12 million cut is about 1.2 percent of the department's giant \$1 billion budget, but only about one-third of that money comes from the city's general fund. The rest comes equally from the state and federal governments.

In the best-case scenario, DPH would eliminate about 33 jobs, of which 18 are actually filled right now. Approximately seven of those would be at the SF AIDS Office, for a projected savings of \$569,000.

The biggest wild card in the budget process is the cooperation of the city's labor unions. Last year Service Employees International Union Local 790, which represents about 10,000 city workers, including about 4,000 at DPH, refused to cooperate with any givebacks or pension fund payment reductions, as did the other city employee unions.

"They've been very difficult to work with," said Gregg Sass, DPH's chief financial officer.

This year doesn't look like it's going to be any better. Ruben Garcia, SEIU's union representative to

DPH, said any concessions would have to be accompanied by promises of no layoffs and no cuts in services, both of which the DPH plan envisions.

When presented with the details of the DPH's proposed budget remedies, Garcia said, "This plan? No."

He predicted a stalemate, "Until the city meets us halfway."

Garcia said that the city should look for new sources of revenue, including making up what he said was "\$200 million payroll tax give-back to business" when the city lost a lawsuit striking down the way it collected its payroll taxes.

"It basically means new taxes," Garcia said.

The testimony at Tuesday's Health Commission meeting, called to discuss the impending budget cuts at DPH, ranged from technical discussions about the percentage of budget cuts and union pension fund contribution concessions to the testimony of one woman, a patient at Maxine Hall Health Clinic, who stood at the podium and told the commission, "They literally saved my life. Please don't cut their programs."

"This is clearly the worst fiscal crisis that the city has had in the last decade," Katz told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We don't want to cut any of the health services that are proposed. But we are forced to because of the lack of city dollars to support all of our services." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER  
CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE 0265045-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Z-Club Radio Control Cars And Accessories. 219 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Derek Chu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/04/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265258-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Conscious Chiropractic & Acupuncture. 220 Montgomery Ste. 305 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amy Michelle Paris, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 12, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265266-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Turbo Hardware. 1344 La Playa Street #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul D. Constantine. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265194-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Elan LaLonde Ceramics. 29 Aler, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elan LaLonde. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 3, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265144-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Banana's. 191 Pine Street San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Vena Shrivastava. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265142-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: La Czar Enterprises- International. 355 Octavia Street #31, San Francisco, Ca. 94102-5816. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard S. La Czar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2003.

MAR. 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265290-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fresh Catch 24 Willie Mays Plaza San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Michael Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540643

In the Matter of the Application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus For change of Name. The application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jamey Jacobus Moore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265399-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Shears 4974 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rosa R. Metcalf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/19/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540639

In the Matter of the Application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark For change of Name. The application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kirsten Maria Konigsmark has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kirsten Maria Riccardi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of May at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540621

In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum For change of Name. The application of Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Nicoloff Baum has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Nicoloff Barrett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 05th day of May at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265623-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Constable Antique Lighting 366 Tenth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Todd Alan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/26/2003.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265618-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Muang Thai Thai Cuisine, 385 Taylor Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Woncharum Aksonboon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/26/2003.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540659

In the Matter of the Application of Julito McStay Ong For change of Name. The application of Julito McStay Ong for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Julito McStay Ong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Julito Jules McStay Ong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02nd day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265862-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Search Light Solutions. 684 A Sanchez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew P. Zalman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265676-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dauntless Promotion. 659 Scott Street #10, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jennifer Daunt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265692-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Motel Brazil Imports. 404 Broderick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew M. Della Rocca. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE**  
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Bay Foods Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at 185 Berry Street, suite #5500 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3567 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE  
APRIL 10, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-54066

In the Matter of the Application of Robin Alison Gilmore For change of Name. The application of Robin Alison Gilmore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robin Alison Gilmore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikal Robin Gilmore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16 day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540664

In the Matter of the Application of Jo Lil Howard For change of Name. The application of Jo Lil Howard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jo Lil Howard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Josephine Lillian Howard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03540673

In the Matter of the Application of D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins For change of Name. The application of D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Loggins has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to D'Aarez Zeru O.C. Woodard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 5th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0265865-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The UPS Store. 660 4th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Joseph M. Corpron and Stephen Portaro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2003.

APR. 10, 17, 24, MAY 1, 2003



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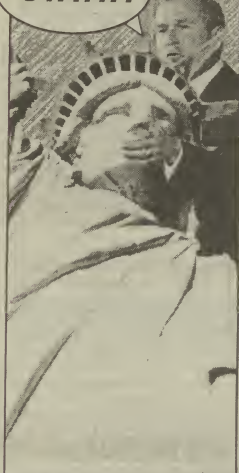
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## LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FOR PAPERS WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2003  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCo)

SFLAFCo is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2003, in the  
Legislative Chambers, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on Recycled Water  
and Ground Water.

Tune into SFGTV Friday, April 25 2003 at 2:00 PM for a LIVE broadcast of SFLAFCo's hearing  
on Recycled Water and Ground Water. This meeting will replay Monday, April 28 at 9:30 AM.

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY  
Solicitation No. 02-620-1FB-042  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the San Francisco Housing Authority (Authority) will  
accept sealed bids for a construction contract to furnish all labor, materials and related costs for  
a new 150 KW Emergency Generator at CAL 1-31, 25 Sanchez Street, San Francisco.

Bids are due at 1815 Egbert Ave., Suite 300, San Francisco, at or before 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
April 22, 2003.

For bid documents, call Rozina at (415) 715-3212.  
INVITATION FOR BIDS.

Due 5 pm April 25, 2003. Request for proposals for printing of the voter information pamphlet  
for San Francisco Department of Elections. Bids available in Room 48, City Hall. Pre-bid  
conference April 11, 2003 10 a.m., 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl. Rm 48. (415) 554-4375.

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
Fun, music, nature tours and information booths on environmental issues will be a part of the  
People's Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Heron's Head Park at  
Jennings and Cargo. Sponsored by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission along with  
community groups, this fun-filled, free event will include activities for the entire family. For  
more information, call 508-0575.

**BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides  
supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2  
years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting  
to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone  
to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING**  
The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to  
clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households.  
Childhood lead poisoning is an illness that continues to rob our children of a bright future. Lead  
poisoning interferes with a child's ability to learn, develop and grow; and it may create behavioral  
problems. Children in San Francisco continue to become lead poisoned from several sources.  
These include dust and soil contaminated with lead-based paint and peeling or cracked lead-  
based paint that children breathe or ingest. This program will be available only for a short time.  
For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Tulle at: (415) 252-  
3102.

**SFGTV: SAN FRANCISCO GOVERNMENT TELEVISION**  
View Live coverage of the Board of Supervisors' meetings, Commissions, meetings and special  
events on SFGTV, San Francisco Government Television, Cable 26.

Check the website at [www.sfgov.org/sfgtv](http://www.sfgov.org/sfgtv) for the current program schedule, or turn to Cable 26  
to view on-air program schedules on the hour, and the half-hour. You may also call the SFGTV  
hotline at (415) 557-4293, to hear a recording of live cable cast and repeat playback times.

04/10/03  
CNS-521031#

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-  
540644

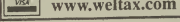
In the Matter of the Application of Carole  
Ann Renselaer For change of Name. The  
application of Carole Ann Renselaer for  
change of name, having been filed in Court,  
and it appearing from said application that  
Carole Ann Renselaer has filed an  
application proposing that his/her name be  
changed to Carole Renselaer Moore. Now  
therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed,  
that all persons interested in said matter do  
appear before this Court in Department 218  
on the 20th day of May at 9:00am., of said  
day to show cause why the application for  
change of name should not be granted.  
MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

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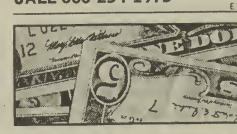
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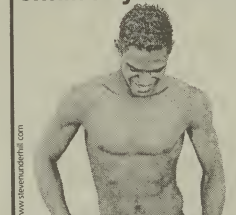
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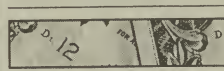
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What we're seeing and what we're not  
seeing on US TV, in 'The Lavender Tube.'  
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**Gems of SF Ballet**  
Virtuosic movements in  
Mr. Balanchine's 'Jewels.'  
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**Cautionary tales in film**  
'Better Luck Tomorrow'  
and 'Unknown Pleasures.'  
page 31



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 15 • 10 April 2003

## Graham crackers

Gay British talk-show host  
Graham Norton tests  
the American waters

by Richard Dodds

**I**s America really ready for Graham Norton? The iridescently effervescent gay talk-show host from London does have an intense fan base in the States, but it's mostly limited to the relatively few households that get BBC America on cable. Still, NBC recently shot a pilot in New York with Norton, even though he has an out-there style that often has both celebrity guests and audiences in various states of breast-clutching shock and genuine amusement.

The Irish-born Norton appears nightly on prime-time mainstream British TV, but it's harder to imagine an American network having the nerve to put on Graham Norton without toning down the frequently sexual hot-spots.

Norton recently made himself available for an interview in London following a taping of his show, and he wasn't much sweating this upcoming shot at American fame. "They want us to do what we do as we do it," Norton said of the NBC pilot. "But I can't imagine it will get picked up. I'm not desperate to do it. I'm in a very nice position. I've got a job."

Indeed, Norton, 39, turned down an \$8-million offer this year to jump to the BBC from the independent Channel Four, the network where *So Graham Norton* first appeared in 1998 as a weekly show and now airs five times a week as *V Graham Norton*. "We got loads of complaints every week," Norton said of the first season. "But as mad as those

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Richard Dodds

## A tale of catharsis

Erling Wold's  
crucifixion opera  
at ODC Theater

by Mark Mardon

**I**t's late afternoon at the villa of Caius Pontius Pilatus, governor of Judaea, as tenor John Duykers plays the opening scene of composer Erling Wold's powerful *Sub Pontio Pilato* (*Under Pontius Pilate*), a chamber opera of Biblical proportions opening April 10 at ODC Theater, presented with the support of the Paul Dresher Ensemble, a force in the progressive New Music scene. In this dramatic recounting of the death and remembrance of Caius Pontius Pilatus, Duykers sings the title role of a piece perfectly attuned to the tenor of our times.

As indicated in James Bisso's libretto, Pilatus' slave Ptolemæus, played by soprano Kerry Walsh (who also sings the role of Procula, Pilatus' wife), "enters and pours a bucket of hot water into a large marble tub. Pilatus enters, disrobes, and gets into the tub. Ptolemæus brings a beaker of wine and two glasses on a salver. He fills the glasses and removes a knife from his robes. Suddenly, as the opening chords sound, he slits his master's wrists.

Pilatus settles back to die, listening to Ptolemæus sing."

Those chords lead into a theme Wold says has long bubbled inside him, in part because "the quality of the ancient languages feels musical, especially Latin." He began working out ideas with Bisso in 1994, drawing on the librettist's deep knowledge of languages, classic texts and religious topics. The creation of the libretto, which Bisso attributes to the help of "many authors, commentators, editors, and translators of the historical texts," draws on translations and interpretations of Herodotus, Diogenes Laertius, Lucretius, Hieronymus, Flavius Josephus, the King James Bible, Martin Luther, and Suetonius, among others, with passages in Russian, Hebrew, German, Latin and Greek. It loosely follows the stations of the cross.

What particularly grabbed Wold about the story of Pilatus is that the governor of Judaea died long before Christianity firmly took root, and thus Pilatus passed on with little awareness of the role for which he would be most remembered.

Before Duykers' Pilatus dies, he conjures up Historia (Laura Bohn), the personification of history, who prophesies to him that, "You will endure mild fame for a dis-remembered deed."

"*Hic Acherusia fit stultorum denique vita*," replies Pilatus scornfully. "And therefore a fool's life is hell on earth."

In his fevered, dying state — as children (*pueri*)  
page 29 ►

John Duykers and  
Kerry Walsh in  
*Sub Pontio  
Pilato*



Photo and Video

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Adventures in the gossip trade

Going undercover at club openings, society events

by Roberto Friedman

We like to lurk, we live to lurk. There Out There was last week, lurking at a cocktail reception for the Escada spring/summer collections and this year's San Francisco Symphony Black & White Ball. We staked out a position near the boutique's door, where all the society people were making their entrances for the photographer shouting, "Walk to me, walk to me," while he snapped and flashed.

This is what we do for a living: observe, observe, stay curious. Suddenly we were spotted and quickly colored by the enterprising publicist working the event. Said this charming man, "I see you hiding over there behind that pillar! Come with me and I'll introduce you to [Black & White Ball chairman] Yurie Pascarella!" We couldn't say no.

Ms. Pascarella was social, gracious, and clad in hip designer duds from head to toe, which is where our attention suddenly wandered. We wondered aloud if she would find it difficult shut-

ting back and forth to the B&W parties all over the Civic Center while strapped into her high heels.

"Oh, Mercedes is one of our sponsors this year," she responded, "and they give me a lift!" The rich are indeed different from you and us: they get a lot more free stuff. The Black & White Ball is coming, May 31. Info: (415) 864-6000, or bwball.com.

Then we were back to our old tricks, lurking we mean, in the elevated lounge at Mezzanine, club proprietress Audrey Joseph's new venue in the alley behind the Old Mint (aka Rat Cen-

tral). It was the pre-opening party, which meant our good friends Open Bar and Cheese Puffs were in attendance. We were watching the musclebound guy posed on the bar as a living statue (we always wondered what Phys. Ed. majors wind up doing for a living) when we were spotted again. "I knew you'd be here!" said BAR leather columnist Mr. Marcus as we made a pass at the bar. Our cover was blown.

## Phalli are coming

An eminent assortment of fabulous local artists and personalities have dickered 20 foot-long wooden phalluses in honor of SF Jacks' 20th Anniversary. The 20 artistically transformed phalli (that's a dick for every year that Jacks have been purveying penis to the people) will be on display at the Jacks' Cock/Tale Reception, on Monday, April 14, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Power Exchange, 74 Otis. You don't have to have a penis to attend: women are especially welcome at the exhibition, but will be respectfully asked to withdraw at 7:30 p.m., when the all-male part of the Jacks' 20th anniversary begins. Remaining men will be asked to remove their clothing, and you know what happens then: all things that rise must



"Velocrector (Penisaurus Luridus)" by Chaz Hardman

converge.

Among the artists giving fabulous phallus are performer/activist Keith Hennessy, stage star Matthew Simmons (aka Peggy L'eggs), Jack Davis, Michael Johnstone and David Faulk (aka Mr. Tina and Mrs. Vera), Chaz Hardman (his "Velocrector [Penisaurus Luridus]" pictured here), Lord Huckleberry, Jordy Jones, BAR porn maven John F. Karr, the perpetually indulgent Sister Roma, Blow Buddies muralist David Ross, pulp-playwright Allen Sawyer, Dr. Carol Queen, and sexologist Jerry Zientara (aka Dr. Woof!).

Jacks, which is neither a business nor a religion but a loose-knit bunch of guys enjoying non-insensitive sex with their buddies, has been hosting all-nude masturbation parties for two decades. In the spirit of the anniversary

celebration, they're glad to add, "Bring a friend, and we'll play with his penis!" Doors to the Jacks meeting, where friendly cumaderie promises you'll see the Thing Itself, are open from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Jacks Hotline is (415) 267-6999.

## The big picture

Size matters dept.: Scale is everything in the large-scale photography of Andreas Gursky, currently on view at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art through June 1. Look at a Gursky photograph like 99 Cent (1999), for example, which measures 6 ft. 9 1/2 in. by 11 ft., and at first, the sheer size of the image impresses. We're not used to seeing photography in these dimensions. Then, the large volume of detail overwhelms: we can read the wrappers on the endless boxes of candy bars arrayed in this discount emporium.

When Gursky chooses hotel-lobby atriums as his subject, or the anonymous façades of International Style office buildings or apartment blocks, the corporate-sized scale of our infrastructure is alienating, forbidding. When he chooses to photograph landscapes, stock exchange floors, or techno raves, the very size of his canvas ensures that we apprehend how small (how human) we really are. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St., info: (415) 357-4000.

## Eager for Igor

Sony Classical/Legacy's new release *The Essential Igor Stravinsky*, devoted to the "greatest hits" of the modernist Russian composer (he put the "rush" in *Petrushka*), necessarily cuts corners in altering the musical giant's oeuvre to fit a 2-CD set. Most of his masterpieces are represented (if only, as in *The Rake's Progress*, by a single scene), and there are even a few quirks included, like his setting of *Edward Lear's* "The Owl and the Pussycat" ("What a beautiful pussy you are!")

But surely the prize for liner-notes oddity goes to the tribute essay penned by Phish guitarist and singer Trey Anastasio. "*The Rite of Spring* is just killer," admits Anastasio. "In fact, there are parts of Phish songs that are probably



Proto-Fluffhead Igor Stravinsky

direct rip-offs of Stravinsky. All the swoops and swells in 'Fluff-head' where everyone is playing something different are right out of *The Rite of Spring*!"

Look for "Fluffhead," coming soon to a symphony orchestra program near you.

## Garage banter

Did you know lesbian tennis great Martina Navratilova once broke a finger on her right hand in the garage door at her Aspen, Colorado home? Neither did we, until we perused the entertaining press release from Martin Garage Doors entitled, "Celebrities Learn First-Hand of Garage-Door Dangers." Apparently, Canadian rock guitarist Peter McKenna and NY Mets pitcher Satoru Komiya managed to get their mitts caught in their garage doors, too. But who cares? We want to hear what happened to Martina's magic fingers.

It was Christmas Eve, 1989. Perhaps MN was on her way to a swank soiree thrown by her Lesbian sisters somewhere down the hollers. In her haste to get to the party, she broke a finger in the door-opening mechanism. Luckily for the world of tennis, it was a digit on her right hand (Martina's a lefty.) She told the *Los Angeles Times*, "I'm going 40 or 50 miles per hour down the mountain in Aspen [presumably she means, when she skis], and I break my finger on a garage door!" Life's funny like that.

Life is also a banquet, but some people only go for the steak fajitas take-away. Which reminds us, we'll be taking ourselves away next issue, giving us a short breather from the editorial salt-mines (and you, from us). Then we'll come back and tell you where we've been. ▼

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## DANCE

Catherine Winfield, Parrish Maynard, and Leslie Young in 'Emeralds' from George Balanchine's *Jewels*.

## Ballet after the boom

### SFB's mixed Programs V & VI

by Stephanie von Buchau

The San Francisco Ballet's subscription Program V features three ballets all created within five years of each other (1988 to '93) at a period when the ballet boom of the '70s had faded to a faint whimper. Possibly that explains why these pieces all suffer from musical lethargy, which leads inevitably to choreographic ennui.

It is possible to admire, even to love Kurt Weill's acerbic songs without wanting to hear them sung out of context in a faux-Lenya style. Helgi Tomasson's choice of subject matter — innocence betrayed — in his 1993 *Nanna's Lied* could have been fueled by his love of Weill, but I can't help thinking it was really because he required a dramatic vehicle for his then-muse, Elisabeth Loscavio.

In trying to make a sow's ear out of a silk purse — Loscavio was a lovely dancer but she couldn't get "down and dirty" if you threatened her with death — Tomasson created a vapid, third-hand *Cabaret* that lay there in a pool of borrowed clichés until Tina LeBlanc applied some hard-earned moxie and resurrected the thing. I can see why Yuan Yuan Tan would want to have a go at it, but her honorable attempt succeeded only in "Surabaya Johnny," where her burgeoning partnership with Yuri Possokhov produced disturbingly violent emotional and sexual imagery.

Yet what is the point of Yuan Yuan playing a balletic porn queen when two days later, in Bal-

anchine's *Jewels* (Program VI), she elevated the final movement into Petipa Heaven? That long, beautiful line, the imperial arms and shoulders, the fetishist's arched feet, the glacially gracious expression poured through the Tchaikovsky Third Symphony with such serene impetus that I could feel the War Memorial crowd stop breathing. Then some virtuosic movement of Tan's caused a minor outburst of applause, shocking us back to life.

Last year's *Jewels* premiere was unsettled. A year of rehearsal and concentration have smartened it up and put the emphasis where it belongs, not on the tawdry, energetic "Rubies," but on the "Diamonds" finale. Give Balanchine a Polonaise and he is in paradise. *Theme and Variations* is the touchstone, but this Polonaise (the Third Symphony is nicknamed "Polish," after all) is nearly as valuable a gem. When the SFB corps gets its act together, legs, arms and heads working in unison with the music, your scalp achieves liftoff.

#### Urgent delivery

"Emeralds" worked smoothly last year, but it was more feverish with Lorena Feijoo and Possokhov in the leads. Is he on the verge of retirement? He looks sweaty and urgent right now, and I, who have never been a fan of his "classical" work, am enjoying the extra effort he puts into it. I don't think that Mr. B intended his green couple to be quite as *aux anges* as Possokhov and Feijoo, who looked as if Faure's "Pelleas et Melisande" were their personal tragedy. Yet there is no doubt that

their intense eye contact and dangerously hurtling bodies kept your attention riveted. Julie Diana and Damian Smith were the more conventional second couple, while Parrish Maynard partnered Catherine Winfield and Leslie Young in the pas de trois.

I've never been a big fan of "Rubies" (or any of Balanchine's "Americana," for that matter), which makes me the odd man out at most Balanchine discussions. Muriel Maffre is a hoot as the elongated Broadway chorine, with the four corps boys manipulating her limbs. I wanted to like Vanessa Zahorian and Gonzalo Garcia in Stravinsky's intricate pas deux, but she's starting to remind me of Loscavio, a spunky talent tarnished by all-American cheerleader perkiness. Garcia remains SFB's premier darling.

Program V opened with Peter Martins' *The Waltz Project*. I enjoy its urban sex appeal, angular lifts and jokey battle of the sexes, but I can't stand that music. A series of demented "waltzes" for piano, it pounds and squawks and screeches like fingernails on a blackboard, denting your brain. It bears as much resemblance to the romantic dance known as the "waltz" as rap does to Schubert Lieder.

The music to Val Caniparoli's *Connotations*, Benjamin Britten's 1939 Violin Concerto, demonstrates the fallacy of trying to set ballet to an existing piece that seems attractive on the surface but poses obstacles that a young choreographer cannot surmount. At 35 minutes, it wears out its welcome long before Caniparoli makes any sense out of it kinetically.

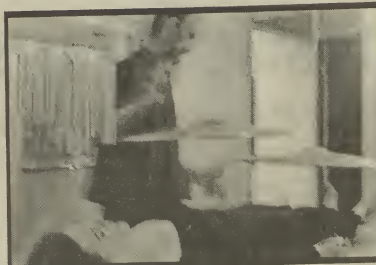
A series of pas de deux for five couples — what possessed Tomasson to program two lengthy works that consist solely of pas de deux? — *Connotations* grinds on to the point where I wanted to scream. Nicole Starbuck and Smith start the piece, then yield to Maffre and Pierre-Francois Vilanoba, whose big, long-limbed, sweeping duet is the crux of the work. But during their dances, and those of two other couples, Megan Low and Joan Boada, dressed in creepy black and appreciably shorter than the others, continually blot out the sun. They portentously raise the anxiety level, but never deliver an emotional blow. As my late editor, Kenneth Lamott, used to say when one's writing became obscure, "What mean?" ▼

Julie Diana and Benjamin Pierce in Peter Martins' *The Waltz Project*.

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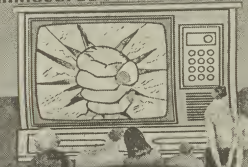
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# Domestic affairs

## ACT's 'The Constant Wife' charms

by Richard Dodds

**W** Somerset Maugham, in his 1926 play *The Constant Wife*, offered this test of true love: "Could you use his toothbrush? No? Then you're not in love with him."

It's a line of such intimate simplicity that it can easily pass as contemporary rather than from a 77-year-old English comedy of manners. In fact, the play is filled with ear-catching pronouncements that can still provoke surprise in audiences.

At one point, the title character says to her philandering husband, "I'm tired of being a modern wife, a prostitute who doesn't deliver the goods." There was a bit of collective gasp before the laughter at the play's recent opening at the Geary Theater.

Maugham is best known as a novelist with a sharp eye for social commentary. Works such as *Of Human Bondage* and *The Razor's Edge* grappled with existential issues, but the plays that Maugham prolifically produced in the 1920s used the trappings of high comedy for his social explorations. That's the case with *The Constant Wife*.

ACT's current production of the Maugham play is a stylish delight, and a couple of wayward English accents and oversized performances notwithstanding, is probably the theater's most successful period piece since its frothy production of *Tartuffe* in 1999.

Maugham's own marriage was crumbling when he wrote about the marital crisis befalling John and Constance Middleton. But rather than taking aim at the play's wife, Maugham instead made her wise and strong. Her pragmatic theories on marriage's quick loss of passion may reflect the playwright's own complicated situation, including Maugham's male companion, who led his wife to file for divorce.

In *The Constant Wife*, after trying to prevent friends and family from telling her what she already knows, that her husband is having an affair with her best friend, Con-

stance never suggests divorce as an option. She recognizes her husband's need for the passion that only early love can provide, and she sets forth to find some of that passion for herself. Despite the mutual adultery, of maybe because of it, the marriage will prevail.

As Constance, Ellen Karas provides an anchoring performance that communicates the character's strengths, charms, and unglamorous desirability. Jonathan Fried generates considerable laughter as the wayward husband, but the buffoonish performance creates a character unlikely to charm either

a wife or a mistress. Mark Elliot Wilson has the right manner and matinee-idol good looks for Constance's old suitor who suddenly reappears.

Ashley West plays Constance's friend and John's mistress as something like a chorine who has married well, and veteran Bay Area actor Charles Dean plays this sputtering husband in a delightful cameo performance. Good work also from Beth Dixon as Constance's old-school mother and Stacy Ross as an early feminist, though Emily Ackerman falls into a pattern of mugging for laughs as

Constance's sister.

Director Kyle Donnelly does sometimes go for the broad gesture when a more restrained one might do, and the little jigs the characters perform between scenes is no longer a particularly novel device. Even so, his production of *The Constant Wife* is a charming affair that will reward your attention. ▼

**The Constant Wife will run at the Geary Theater through April 27. Tickets are \$15-\$61. Call 749-2228.**



Ellen Karas anchors the play.

## Graham Norton

◀ Arts cover

people were, they did wise up. They kind of thought, 'Ugh, it's back,' and then went elsewhere to complain."

There were few or no complaints when, for example, Norton had on Cher as a guest, and he found the website of a Cher fan who also had a graphically photographed balloon fetish. Norton dialed up Buster the balloon man and handed the phone to a slightly horrified Cher. But she melted when Buster changed from a guy with this kinda weird interest into an ecstatic Cher fan.

And then there was the time Gerard Depardieu was the guest, and Norton called up a man with a nose-fetish website to make a dream come true. The www.proboscis-lover made sounds of ecstasy while the happily obliging French actor blew his big snout into a hankie close to the telephone receiver.

"Our show takes the lead from the Internet, which is a wonderful thing," Norton said. "Before, a guy like Buster would have been quite dark and depressed. 'Here I am all alone with my lovely balloons.' How brilliant it must have been to go on the Web and find there are hundreds of people who want to wank with a balloon. We do sort of laugh at these people on the show, but we don't really judge them."

Not everyone gets the joke. A few days before our talk in Lon-



Norton: he's laughing, not judging.

don, the newspapers were reporting on Robin Gibb's seething anger at Norton for a joke he told shortly after Bee Gees brother Maurice Gibb had died in a Miami hospital. The on-air joke: "I bet Maurice Gibb's heart monitor was singing the tune of 'Stayin' Alive.'"

"It was a mistake, and we shouldn't have done it," Norton said of the loudly criticized quip. "It made us laugh in the office. The thing is, there were so many worse jokes we were doing in the office. Like, 'How Deep Is My Bro.' It may not always seem like it, but we are self-censoring."

Tell that to Shirley Bassey, one of Norton's wish-list guests, who was booked for an upcoming show when she began flipping channels one night. "Elton John was our guest," Norton said, "and I ended up giving him a big cock attached to a football — there was a reason at the time — and when

she saw that, she pulled out. We've promised we won't give her any big cocks, but there is more damage control still to do."

Most guests visibly get into the spirit of the world according to Graham. Some actually go overboard, like a bizarrely salacious Cybil Shepherd on one show. "I've been lucky so far that the big icon-y people like Dolly Parton, Cher, Sophia Loren, and Dustin Hoffman have been just fantastic. It's people down the food chain who are really unreasonable."

Which brings us to the case of Lindsay Wagner, TV's Bionic Woman, who looked alternately bored and disgusted when she guested. "Lindsay Wagner was the worst guest we ever had. I loathe her. She had seen tapes. I had taken her out to lunch. I explained the show to her. And then she just sat there thinking, this has got me a free trip to London, and in an hour I can leave this horrible place. Afterwards, she sent me a book called something like *How Can I Love the Children and Still Love Myself?* I took great pleasure in chucking it away."

Something Norton never had to deal with was coming out on television. "I arrived on television being gay, so it's never been an issue," said Norton, who, before he had fully figured out he was gay, spent a year in a San Francisco commune in the early '80s. When he did open up, it was wide.

In the early years of the show, Norton and the producers took care not to overwhelm viewers

with gayness. "Once I'm in a show it's already very gay, so at first we were really strict that the websites I go to be straight, that the fetish phone calls be straight ones."

Does Norton see himself as a gay trailblazer? "I don't know," he said with a shrug. "Sometimes I think I'm a really depressing version of gayness coming into people's homes. When I was a kid, we used to have camp performers who weren't out, but everyone knew they were gay. I'd be sitting at home watching and thinking, 'Oh, God, is that what I'm going to become?' And, of course, it was. Now I can console myself that there are quite a few versions of gay on British television."

During his foray into American television, the pilot for NBC, Norton also taped five New York shows that recently aired on his Brit and BBC America show. Later this month, he will be back in New York to open in his one-man show at an off-Broadway theater.

"I don't want to leave Britain," Norton said as he sipped a dressing-room white wine in London. "I like living here and working here, but it would be nice to spend more time in America because I would be making money while I was there. But I don't really care what I do. I'd be quite happy to host any old shit." ▼

**V Graham Norton airs weeknights at 11 & 11:30 p.m. on BBC America (Channel 162 on SF digital cable).**

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# Passion play

Paul McCreesh's divine 'St. Matthew'

by Tim Pfaff

Eager anticipation did nothing to prepare me for the divine jolt of Paul McCreesh's new *St. Matthew Passion* (Archiv). McCreesh, who has had a busy career in front of the microphones, has yet to make a bad record, or one less than electrifyingly "live," even if made in the studio. So I was excited to see his new two-CD set of Bach's towering masterpiece on DG's website, and thrilled to find it in Bangkok stores well in advance of its April 8, pre-Easter, US release date.

Still, my avidity quickly dissolved into disbelief — then believing — astonishment as the urgent first measures of the monumental opening chorus led fleetly yet inexorably to that last, mournful yet oddly rousing one. The fact that this is the first complete *St. Matthew* on only two CDs tells you something about its pace. But nothing seems rushed in this exquisitely proportioned reading. Never has a new interpretation of a familiar work so knocked me sideways with its stream of never-ending revelations.

The *St. Matthew* was the second LP set I ever owned (the Klemperer, now one of EMI's *Great Recordings of the Century*). A handful of other exemplary

recordings (particularly the two by Harnoncourt) have steadily illuminated important new aspects of this unfathomably great work since. McCreesh's interpretation, with his hand-picked ensemble of Baroque specialists whose work had a chance to "season" during the tour that preceded this recording, does break some important new ground while yielding the richest, most rewarding recorded account of the work yet.

"Account" is meant literally here. The *Passion* is, after all, a story, of Jesus' trial and crucifixion (minus its Easter coda, the fundamental Christian tale). While other versions of this *Passion* setting have captured its drama, this one is informed and driven by it. It's the arias — which interrupt the action for sublime meditation on theological themes — that startle, rather than the other way around. It's not just that the "cast" — the singers in the "name" roles (Jesus, Pilate, the Evangelist and the rest) — musically enacts the drama, though it does with unprecedented impact. The instrumentalists, too (particularly two organists, playing a fine modern copy of a Baroque organ and its smaller, "positiv" counterpart), along with the chorus, emerge full, equal participants in the action. Both verbal and musical texts are rendered with a vividness that at various times made

me flinch, jump, and gasp.

In his fascinating accompanying interview, McCreesh speculates that critical attention will focus on his decision to use only his eight vocal soloists, one on a part, as the chorus for a work that has more routinely summoned much larger forces. But, as he notes, he's not the first leader to try this musically justified approach; however, he's the first to bring it off. His eight soloists boast voices of such acuity and penetration to the choruses, and dispatch them with such flawless ensemble, that the sound is anything but small. And the clarity the deployment of such a select group of singers brings to the all-important texts makes these choruses seem like bigger statements than usual. As the crowd in the big judgment scene, their sound is chilling in its ferocity.

While the singers are evenly matched and superbly blended, a few names need naming. Tenor Mark Padmore steps out of a long



McCreesh has supreme freedom.

line of distinguished Evangelists (the *Passion*'s principal narrator) to outdistance his predecessors by laps. (You don't have to believe me; it's literally on the record now.) How any singer can articulate texts this acutely, pungently, and with "swing" — and not sound fussy in the process — is hard to explain, but one hangs on his every word. Mezzo-soprano Magdalena Koená, who has done some outstanding work, particularly in Bach (but at other times almost hidden behind her exquisitely burnished alto) here delivers

a performance that confirms that she's one of the most vital music-makers among us. Her "Erbarne dich" has the urgency others before her have brought to it, and a more lithe, supple voice. But it's in the smaller numbers and her pithy contributions to the choruses that she does her most individual, enthralling work. I can't get her "Ach Golgatha" out of my ears, and don't want to. All my musical life, I've loved the bass aria "Mache dich, mein Herze, rein" as much as any other music, but Peter Harvey has made me love the recitative that precedes it as much.

Top Baroque instrumentalists have always, mysteriously yet convincingly, wrung patently human sounds from their instruments, but never, in my experience, as consistently, agilely, and searingly as McCreesh's. Still, the miracle of this performance is McCreesh himself, whose supreme freedom with a work he has mastered to its corners is little short of godlike. ▼

## Sub Pontio Pilato

◀ Arts cover

surround him, serving as a chorus — Pilatus in a delirium encounters a series of figures from his fading life, starting with Herod Antipas (Ken Berry), tetrarch of Galilee and Paræa, "Tiberius' darling," who comes to deliver him to the underworld. In short order he sees his brother-in-law Sejanus (also played by Berry), who once was Tiberius' favorite and Pilatus' patron, but who then incurred Tiberius' wrath, causing him to come crashing down, dragging Pilatus with him.

Next come the Jewish High Priests Joseph Kaiaphas (Micah Epps, also singing Tiberius), who greets him as an old comrade ("I embraced your Pax Romana, so that I was called Gentile by my people"), and Ananas bar Seth (countertenor Steve McKearney), who condemns Pilatus to death for introducing graven images into Judæa.

As children arrayed as Roman soldiers march across the stage, Historia sings of the political mistake that led to the governor's downfall. She recalls that when Pilatus called the Roman army into Jerusalem, he outrageously trampled on Jewish law and sensibilities. His Roman legionnaires made the unforgivable mistake of carrying with them, into the Holy City, military standards bearing images of Cæsar — graven images outlawed by the Second Commandment — thus earning the Jews' undying enmity.

Historia relates that to quell the Jews' uproar, Pilatus had his troops surround the mob and threaten them with instant death if they did not quit the city. Pilatus himself sings that "they threw themselves down/And baring throats/Declared their unanimous resolve to die/Everyone of them/Rather than trample un-

derfoot/Their stern and unbending laws."

Though composer Wold and librettist Bisso may not have intended historical analogies when they undertook the opera's creation in 1994, the storm of emotions and conflict stirred up in *Sub Pontio Pilato* too closely resembles the conflict now taking place in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley not to resonate with contemporary meaning. While this work can be appreciated as an Easter offering, its music and story transcend Christian ideology, working as historical commentary and art both defined by and liberated from religious dogma. Many licenses are taken in this production, with Wold and Basso pursuing ends so obscure at times that divining their meaning(s) could become an academic career.

The crux of Pilatus' story is, of course, the execution he orders that will come to define him for the next 2,000 years. In a vision or dream that Procula relates to her husband, she sees blood on Pilatus' hands for the death of a youth. Once again the children dressed as Roman soldiers take the stage, this time leading Ptolemæus/Procula, now dressed as a Judæan rebel, carrying a beam of wood.

"Let him be crucified!" Pilatus orders his centurion, and the order is promptly carried out, after which the soldiers play dice. It's just another crucifixion, like so many others he has ordered, nothing to get stirred up about. Nothing anyone would remember.

Eventually, Pilatus is put on trial by the Jews and Christians, is found guilty and condemned to death. Oddly enough, however, the demise of Pilatus and Procula in *Sub Pontio Pilato*, rather than seen as tragic, is viewed as glorious, with the couple ascending heavenward in golden raiment. They've become saints, at least in

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# After 'The Crying Game'

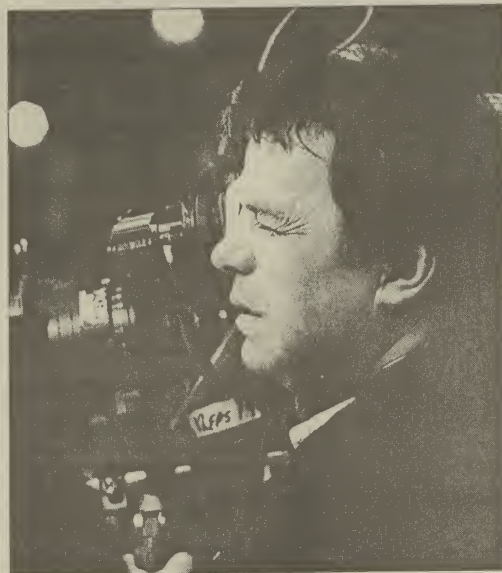
## Interview with director Neil Jordan

by David Lamble

Nearly 20 years ago, Neil Jordan came knocking on my door, a peripatetic, chain-smoking Irishman who had at that point written a couple of novels about "the troubles" afflicting his native land. Jordan had also written and directed a movie in which a very hip Little Red Riding Hood confronted a coof wolf. His ambitious low-budget film spliced a teenage girl's menstrual dreams with ancient myths about creatures half-man and half-wolf.

Little did I or most critics realize that Jordan was staking his claim to a very special piece of film turf, that he would emerge as one of the few filmmakers who are able to use modern sexuality to great effect in storytelling. Beginning with *The Company of Wolves*, *Mona Lisa*, *The Crying Game* and *Interview with a Vampire*, Jordan's films have often used sex as their basic psychological underpinning, with delicious and psychologically credible sexual surprises and gender confusion. For an auteur with robust heterosexual credentials, Jordan has made astute use of the device of telling his stories from the point of view of very butch but oddly vulnerable straight men, played by the likes of Bob Hoskins, Stephen Rea and Brad Pitt.

Jordan confesses that some of his best scripts come from his need to trick himself into wanting to work on a project for which he initially feels little passion. A few years back, before the now-endless revival of buddy jewel-heist caper films, Jordan was approached to rewrite a very minor French example of the genre, Jean-Pierre Melville's *Bob le Flambeur*, or *Bob the Gambler*. At first the job bored him to tears, until he got the idea that Bob needed a



Jordan brings credible sexual surprise and gender confusion to his films.

nationality change. "I made him an American — drug-addled, kind of a refugee from the '60s — and he became fascinating to me."

Turning the character from invisible to cool helped; getting Nick Nolte to play him helped quite a bit more. Over the years, Nolte has borrowed from his own rather battered life to create a series of on-screen portraits of terminally hip guys who live by their own code. As Bob, *The Good Thief*, Nolte hovers effortlessly over a talented international ensemble in the eye of the film's messy plot, without seeming to get his hair mussed.

Jordan thinks he's added an element to his "Rat Pack" caper that was notably missing from the exhumation that is the new *Ocean's Eleven*. "*The Good Thief* is a story about a guy finding grace in his life again, and really casting aside an old skin. I had him set up an incredibly complicated robbery because anything less would not have interested him. If it was just an ordinary job, he'd still be sticking needles in his arms in toilets. The complexity that this job demanded of him suddenly said, 'My God, this is interesting and impossible.' So he tries to pull off the impossible and fails, but the very effort gets him to a place where luck can say, 'Hello.'"

### Turning tricks

Jordan adds that the trick he pulls on Bob is a trick he's pulled on himself as a writer. Struggling with an early draft of *The Crying Game*, Jordan found himself getting bored as soon as he killed off Forest Whitaker's kidnapped soldier and needed to get Stephen

Rea's reformed IRA thug to London to break the news to Whitaker's "girlfriend," played in an Oscar-nominated turn by the then-unknown Jaye Davidson.

"And every time I took the realities of the characters to London, the whole film turned into a social-realist kind of exploration of things, and I thought, 'Wait a second, I'll make the person that he's talking about male, not a female, and suddenly it just all worked. It just drew the story into much deeper areas, into an exploration of internal definitions of oneself, rather than into an exploration of a political situation.'"

"I found Jaye in the club scene in London. He was a star there. He was an extraordinary beautiful kind of man who was appalled when I asked him to put on women's clothes, because he said, 'I'm not a transvestite.' I said, 'I know, just do it. See what it looks like.'"

While *The Good Thief* is hardly *The Crying Game*, Jordan couldn't resist one of his old tricks. "I have one character who is a transsexual bodybuilder. It was logical to me, and I thought it would be a wonderful character, 'cause a lot of people who do that serious pumping iron, steroid ingestion, they do wind up with a kind of indeterminate sexuality. There's a Steadicam operator I know who's had a sex change — big forthright guy, you know, has become Jane — still operates the Steadicam. So I thought, why not have the basic muscle of the crew be a woman by the time they come to need her again?" ▼

Opens Friday.

## Sub Pontio Pilato

◀ previous page

the Abyssinian Orthodox Church. These and other scenes are realized through a score impassioned in its gravitas, driving in its dark plunge into the psyches of Pilatus and his muses, intricately textured in its reach for catharsis. Wold possesses an acute ear for the dramatic, and his immersion in the New Music scene, with its minimalist and experimental ten-

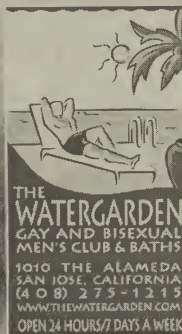
dencies, brings a distinctive 21st-century flavor to a tale of ancient times. The music bridges the gap between the eras, allowing us to realize we're not so distant from those troubled times in the Holy Land. ▼

**Sub Pontio Pilato**, directed by Melissa Weaver, runs April 10-13, 17-19 at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets (\$20): 863-9834 or [www.odctheater.org](http://www.odctheater.org).

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## FILM

# Fast track to nowhere

'Better Luck Tomorrow,' 'Unknown Pleasures'

by David Lamble

Justin Lin's very black social comedy, *Better Luck Tomorrow*, begins when a popular boy, Ben (Parry Shen), is warming the bench of his Orange County high school Junior Varsity basketball team. To Ben, a Junior Varsity letter is just another credit on an already over-stuffed college résumé, so he's a little annoyed when a pushy reporter for the school paper, Daric (Roger Fan), makes a *cause célèbre* out of the coach's failure to give Ben some game time. Daric, as it turns out, has been scouting Ben for a game of his own.

Daric is running the Junior Mafia division of Junior Achievers: selling term papers, test answers, and pep pills; shoplifting at

the school bookstore, then returning the loot for full refunds with phony receipts. Whatever scams a good-looking, totally unscrupulous and upwardly mobile high school senior can pull, Daric is pulling them, and, as he gains recruits — Ben, Virgil (Jason Tobin) and Han (Sung Kang) — Daric suddenly finds himself an Ivy League-bound crime boss.

Director Lin, whose 1997 feature *Shopping for Fangs* (co-directed and written with Quentin Lee) made nasty fun of sexual obsessions, identity theft, and lycanthropy, has with *Better Luck Tomorrow* concocted a closely-observed speed trip with a gang of four LA Asian high school kids ripping along an academic fast-track that will take them either to Stanford or to Hell. Using the tropes of superior teen films like

Tommy O'Haver's *Get Over It*, *Better Luck* takes a detour through Gregg Araki country (*The Doom Generation*) and winds up in Larry Clark Land, with a *Bully*-like denouement that will leave some in the audience with their hair standing up without the benefit of gel.

While none of this ethically scruffy behavior would pass muster with Miss Manners, things don't get really out of hand until our boys get some serious attitude at a party from a rival gang of white jocks. Suddenly, Daric is re-arranging a once-pretty face with the business end of a pistol. Word travels fast through the high school grapevine, and the four Asian American nerds are now believed to be members of the Chinese underworld. As Virgil, a beanstalk of a boy filled with rage (the Honk Kong-born Tobin invokes memories of a young Sean Penn), proclaims in the backseat of Daric's car: "Fucking A, that was better than sex."

It is precisely when they're in too deep to turn back that our feckless four briefly find what they've been yearning for: shedding their straight-A geekdom for the respect that America reserves for its bad boys. Director Lin subverts cultural stereotypes, demonstrates why gang behavior exists up and down the social tempest, and subtly subverts the temple of male camaraderie. The barely suppressed homoeroticism of the violent bond between Virgil



Xiao Ji (Wu Qiong) and Qiao Qiao (Zhao Tao) in *Unknown Pleasures*

and Han (the Georgia-born Sung Kang) gives unexpected zest to a character who appears destined to park cars or smash faces. The breathless, surreal style of Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* makes this an unexpectedly funny if cautionary tale. (Opens Friday.)

## No future

Warning: *Unknown Pleasures* revives a version of the French New Wave that will make some Americans feel like director Jia Zhang-Ke's camera only operates in slow motion. If Jean-Luc Godard had died (instead of merely his talent) and were to come back to Earth in the body of a young Chinese cineaste, this is the film he would make.

"What's so great about a long life? There's no fucking future." Best friends and 19 years old, jobless slackers Xiao Ji (the hair-shrouded face of actor Wu Qiong is a sexy ad for youthful nihilism) and Bin Bin (the more subdued Zhao Wei Wei) are Chinese youth

further removed from the teachings of Chairman Mao than you and I. Trapped in a provincial city dominated by an unfinished freeway, closer to Mongolia than to the capital, these young men get their cultural marching orders from Hollywood rather than Beijing. Director Zhang-Ke achieves a kind of hypnotic visual poetry by training his digital camera on the Rust-Belt architecture of decaying state industries, contrasted with moody interior scenes where characters ache for connection.

Only a decade older than his heedless young hedonists, one-time novelist Zhang-Ke sees, behind the blank expressions, a tragic biological destiny. This is the first generation born to the Chinese government edict, "One child to a family." These kids grew up without brothers and sisters. No wonder when it comes time to date, they're left without the right cues. They languish in a state of perpetual puppy love.

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Jason Tobin, Roger Fan, Sung Kang, Parry Shen in *Better Luck Tomorrow*

# Farewell to Leslie Cheung

by David Lamble

Leslie Cheung, a charismatic pop star who broke into the top echelon of film actors with a pair of memorable gay roles — the tragic opera singer in 1993's *Farewell, My Concubine*, and one of two star-crossed male lovers in 1997's *Happy Together* — has fallen to his death from the 24th floor of the Mandarin Hotel in his native Hong Kong, at the age of 46.

Cheung, a hugely popular Hong Kong performer who worked with China's leading filmmakers (John Woo, Chen Kaige, Wong Kar-Wai and openly gay director Stanley Kwan), reportedly left behind a note confessing to "emotional problems."

A late bloomer, Cheung didn't begin his show business career until after studying at Britain's Leeds University. A best-selling pop album, *The Wind Blows On*, made him an Asian crowd favorite in 1981. His breakthrough film role came playing a young cop opposite Chow Yun-Fat in Woo's violent classic *A Better Tomorrow*. He would later play an opium-smoking playboy in Kwan's *Rouge*.

Cheung achieved gay icon status when he played Dieyi, the son of a prostitute who is kicked out of a brothel and left at an opera school, who falls for a more masculine student, Xiaolou, in *Farewell*.

The late Vincent Canby of *The New York Times* wrote, "Leslie Cheung is exceptionally good as the adult Dieyi, a waif transformed into a glamorous star, a boy trained from adolescence to think of himself as a woman, and then scorned when he succeeds. He's bitchy, forever vulnerable, vain, and, in his own way, loyal to the end to his first and only love."

Cheung again pleased his gay fans co-starring with romantic idol Tony Leung as a pair of lovers whose volatile relationship implodes when they move to Buenos Aires in *Happy Together*. ▼



Cheung: forever vulnerable



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Soprano Montserrat Figueras with ensemble Hesperion XXI: historically-informed interpretations.

## Hesperion XXI cancels US tour

Finding Figueras on disc

by Jason Serinus

One of the casualties of current US foreign policy has been the cancellation of tours by great classical and pop artists. A case in point: the Artemis String Quartet, based in Germany, was forced to cancel a recent San Francisco Performances engagement after one of their members was denied a visa due to a shoplifting incident that occurred when he was 18 years old. Classical as well as pop performances by Cuban artists are also mostly on hold due to visa restrictions. Most recently, both the Hesperion XXI early music consort and the Rotterdam Philharmonic have canceled their tours.

Hesperion XXI was scheduled to perform in Berkeley this week. As explained on andante.com, "According to statements from the group's US representative, Savall and his colleagues feel that they face 'a strong moral dilemma' with respect to performing in the US during its invasion of Iraq, and several key members of the ensemble have refused to participate in an extended North American visit because of the uncertain state of the world and the perceived danger of air travel."

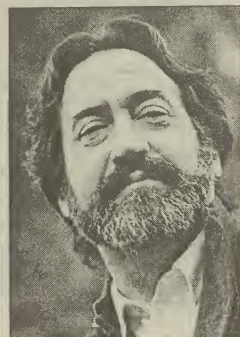
Historically-informed interpretations of medieval, Renaissance,

and baroque music characterized by an elevated sense of refinement have become the hallmarks of ensemble Hesperion XXI's recordings. Formed in 1974 by conductor and bass viol virtuoso Jordi Savall, Hesperion XXI is as equally prized for its impeccably played instrumentals as for its frequent collaborations with Savall's wife, soprano Montserrat Figueras.

The purity of Figueras' instrument can be heard on *Ninna Nanna* (Alia Vox), showcasing her singing six centuries' worth of lullabies in 10 languages. Figueras' voice seems most suited to plaintive expression. The mournful quality of her haunting instrument excels in conveying the asceticism and sadness frequently expressed in early music.

From the anonymous Sephardic cradle song "Nani, nani" (ca. 1500) to two contemporary lullabies composed by the Estonian émigré Arvo Pärt, Figueras' clarity of enunciation, even vocal production, and sheer beauty of sound prove seductive. The opening "José Embala o Menino," an anonymous Portuguese lullaby ("How often [Mary] is heard to sing when in her heart she weeps"), is ideal for her instrument.

So, too, are the anonymous Berbere "Berceuse Amazigh"



Conductor Jordi Savall

("The moon is very sad, Happiness is with others"), William Byrd's "Come, pretty babe" ("thy father's shame, thy mother's grief"), and Johann Friedrich Reichardt's "Dors mon Enfant" ("Your hapless mother has sorrow enough.")

Ask Figueras to perform German composer Max Reger's 1912 "Maria Wiegenlied," a romantic lullaby that depicts the Virgin Mary singing to her infant Jesus, however, and the soprano comes up wanting. Figueras' attempts to smile fail to convince. The lyrics of Reger's little gem may speak of the sweet scent of roses and sounds of birds, but one cannot help but feel that Figueras' mournful Virgin Mary is haunted by advance knowledge of her infant's future crucifixion.

Some of Hesperion's canceled program can be sampled on *La Folia 1490-1701* (Alia Vox), a marvelous recording that showcases how Savall's highly sophisticated sense of color and space elevates even the simplest compositions to the level of High Art. ▼

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# The living-room war

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The war on Iraq began just over three weeks ago and is already the most televised war in American history. Embedded reporters bring hourly reports to the networks. From the barracks to the battlefields, the coverage is, as Ari Fleischer and Donald Rumsfeld keep telling us as if they have given us a gift, "unprecedented."

Nightline's Ted Koppel is still out there in his flak jacket and fatigues, getting in as much of the war as the 3rd Infantry division he's embedded with (but getting paid a whole lot more than the kids risking their lives). ABC's ace reporter Richard Engel got blown out of his bed the night the Baghdad airport was taken, but lived to tell Peter Jennings about it. GMA host Diane Sawyer went to the Gulf to report on the war, the only woman anchor to do so from a major network. But those bombs bursting in air in TV Technicolor are real; David Bloom, NBC White House correspondent and weekend anchor for the *Today* show, was killed in Baghdad on April 6.

The actual killing happens off-camera. Koppel showed the results of a firefight one night last week: bodies of Iraqi soldiers. Burning Iraqi tanks have been shown nearly every evening on the national news, but the anchors neglect to mention that the men inside were incinerated.

TV also brought the harrowing pictures (on Al-Jazeera, not American TV) of American POWs. Their terrified faces embodied all the fear that fuels this war. The mother of one of the captured saw her son on Filipino TV at her home in New Mexico. By the time she had been interviewed by a distraught Jennings on ABC, she had yet to be contacted by the US military, elucidating one of the problems of this war: People learn of the deaths of

their loved ones from TV, not from the officials in charge.

And the death count is aired daily. PBS has been showing photos of American dead at the end of the *NewsHour* each evening. *Sans* music or voiceover, the photos chill. The PBS approach has been acutely sobering.

At presstime, somewhat fewer than 100 Americans had been killed, 16 MIA, seven

POWs. No one knows exactly how many Iraqi soldiers have been killed, but sources suggest between a 5:1 and 7:1 ratio. Then there are the civilians.

According to CNN reports at presstime, 677 Iraqi civilians had been killed in the three weeks of the war. Quite a bit of collateral damage.

## News blackout

What you *aren't* seeing on the news are the daily antiwar protests in the US and abroad. NBC runs video footage but no news text in a small segment; 50 people in Des Moines get the same space as a million in Sydney, Australia.

The pro-war media bias is extraordinary. CNN is the worst offender, but then they have the most coverage. Peter Arnett was roundly chastised for suggesting to an Al-Jazeera reporter that the war wasn't going as the US had planned. On NBC, Tom Brokaw has begun to sound a bit like Ari Fleischer's understudy. GMA is appallingly light on news, and strong on heart-tugging tales of those waiting on the homefront. On *Today*, Katie Couric continues to ask hard questions, like the day after US Marines blew up a car full of women and children at a checkpoint, but she is in the minority.

Where are the Sunday morning shows' hard-hitting queries about the war? Former Secretary of State James Baker basically asked and answered his own questions on *This Week* Sunday, but then George Stephanopoulos was out of his depth *before* the war. We would certainly win the war, Baker asserted as Stephanopoulos looked bemused. But how would we win the peace? Great question, too bad it wasn't asked by a reporter.

The lack of real reporting in this war has removed any edge from the nonstop TV coverage. There is another point of view to this war, we just aren't allowed to see it in the US. Which means a chilling effect has accompanied all the TV coverage; dissent is *verboten*. TV is the propaganda tool of the war for both sides. For two weeks, the networks reported that Saddam Hussein was dead, or at least severely injured. Sen. Dianne Feinstein told Larry King on CNN on April 3 that Hussein was "probably dead," and Sen. John Warner, another member of the committee, agreed. The next-day video of Saddam Hussein kissing

babies in Baghdad put that rumor to rest.

## Minute rites

The real bellwether that the war has had an impact on absolutely everyone (except George Bush and his cohort) is that CBS's Andy Rooney stopped blathering about paperclips and food labels and reminded us why *60 Minutes* is the only real newsmagazine on TV.



Rooney finds life beyond paperclips.

Rooney's spot began with his usual kvetching tone; the bushy eyebrows rose, the wattles shook about. He hunched forward on his desk and complained about the overdone graphics on every newscast: the crawls, the boxes, the crawls within boxes. "We don't even know where to look," he said, exasperated.

Then he spoke about the daily briefings from the embedded reporters, and the news conferences from "the Hollywood set in Qatar," where those orchestrating this war tell us absolutely nothing about what is really going on.

Rooney said everything every Democrat running in 2004 should be saying but doesn't have the guts to. Rooney, who was in World War II and began his journalistic career writing for the Army's *Stars and Stripes*, knows about kids being sent off to wars not of their making by people who have never fought in one. "When I see the President talking to servicemen, I wish that he had been one so he would know where he's sending them." On 9-11 vs. Iraq: "We couldn't catch Osama bin Laden, so we focus on Saddam Hussein; Americans now think he caused 9-11, but it doesn't make it so." On weapons of mass destruction: "If we were losing the war I'm afraid we would use them; if Saddam Hussein is losing the war I'm afraid he'll use them."

There are other things to watch on TV, but what could be more important than charting what is and is not said on American TV about the first imperialistic war of the new millennium? At protests we chant, "The whole world is watching." Congress should take a leaf from the AIDS activist notebook: Silence *does* equal death. And whether you want to or not, stay tuned. ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



"Spring Lullaby," 2002, oil painting by Tino Rodriguez

## From Tino with love

**B**izarre and sometimes disturbing imagery... mysterious characters and supernatural creatures... imaginary gardens and sumptuously appointed interior chambers... theatricality and spectacle abound... a latter-day Symbolist... seeks meaning in the enigmatic depths of his own mutable and often irrational psyche — such are words chosen by curator Dr. Susan Landauer to classify San Francisco queer painter **Tino Rodriguez** and his works. Landauer's careful, spot-on appraisal of Tino's art and mind comes in her introduction to the deeply beautiful, exotic catalog she created with Tino's help to showcase the artist's spectacular new solo-show, *The Darkening Garden (El Jardín al Anochecer)*, opening this Friday, April 11, with an elaborate reception and show at the warm, inviting **San Jose Museum of Art** in downtown San Jose.

Landauer, who is Katie and Drew Gibson Chief Curator at the museum, has mounted a dream showing of Tino's most provocative paintings — not for prudes or the faint of heart — in the Paul L. Davies Gallery, located in the museum's historic wing. The show is openly and provocatively gay, with frank descriptions of the works matching the overtly homoerotic, mythical, blatantly sexual nature of Tino's creations. This major exhibition is the most elaborate showing of a gay artist's work in the museum's history.

The gallery is darkened, with spots highlighting the many framed pieces, each of which grabs and holds with fantasies no painter ever dared before. It was as if Tino had leaped from the Renaissance into modern-day queer San Francisco, and used his Mexican heritage to bridge the two sensibilities. He'd be at home with Fra Angelico, Botticelli, Donatello, Ghirlandaio, Giotto and all those religious imagists, but he'd also be down with Toltec and Mayan artists, not to mention modern-day Japan's Sadao Hasegawa, with his generous love for stiff cocks on drop-dead-gorgeous men.

Tino's work involves choreographed blood-letting, disembowlements, butterflies, rabbits, elaborate headdresses, Victorian collars, intricate floral patterns, flowers vomiting from open mouths, mysterious dark-skinned young men working their dicks, carousing nymphs, evil cherubs, cavorting faeries, detailed flora, life-like birds, enchanting perspectives — and most of all an enormous passion for life.

Tino and his partner Jorge Natividad — who just happens to be an equally dynamic artist working in a similar artistic vein — both evidence a great gusto for friends and family. They have been part of the San Francisco queer scene for ages, but in recent years have been holed up, painting non-stop, expressing their deep tortured inner selves with a calming, uncanny beauty.

Of Tino's decapitation scenes, Landauer writes: "The motif of the beheaded saint runs through Catholic iconography... Of greater significance is the Greek myth of Orpheus, which tells of a musician who played the lyre so beautifully that he could pacify wild beasts, make trees dance and rivers stand still... When Apollo placed his severed head in a cave on the island of Lesbos, it became a source of prophecy and wisdom."

Speaking of prophets, joining Rodriguez for Friday's opening will be famed, award-winning poet **Francisco X. Alarcón**, reading from his latest book (illustrated by Rodriguez) *From the Other Side of Night (Del otro lado de la noche)*. Sublime belly dancing will be performed by **Rachel Brice**, who Tino adores. Copies of the exquisite exhibit catalog, with design and layout by Kimberly Varela, will be available for purchase and autographing by Tino. ▼

**Admission to The Darkening Garden opening reception this Friday, April 11 is \$5 gen'l public; free to SJMA members. The party takes place 6:30-9 p.m. in the Paul L. Davies Gallery, Historic Wing, SJMA, 110 South Market St., San Jose.**

## Fri

### Gregg Cassin @ Space 743

Opening reception: "Unlikely Saints," new works in which much-beloved gay San Francisco artist Gregg Cassin attempts to honor the sacredness of the human spirit. He works with images that illustrate the creative power of suffering and its ability to transform. These works use found images of "strangers" that have been cast off. Rescued, they become unlikely icons that speak of innocence. Free. 6-8pm. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080

### Elana Dykewomon @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute Arts & Culture Series hosts a Book Release Party for *Moon Creek Road* by Elana Dykewomon with Micheline Espino. The book focuses on Jewish women who move from Oregon to Florida, between mountain back-roads and intensive care units. \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

### Hyena Comedy @ Double Play B&G

Laugh 'till you pee with the Hyena Comedy All Stars: Matt Johnson ("Man Of Many Voices"), Sue Mell's dry blonde wit, three crazy Mexicans from San Jose, sassy Ethiopian Yayne Abeba, and the imitable Indian, Tejus Korde, on tour from Detroit. \$7. 8pm doors; 8:25pm show. Double Play Bar & Grill, 2401 16th Street (at Bryant). Tix/info: 821-3601; hyenacomedy.org

### EPI @ New College

The Experimental Performance Institute (EPI) presents two rocking, rollicking pieces: *ghosttown productions' DRAG ATTACK!* a futuristic wig tale co-written by Dwayne Calizo (concept), and Zak Barnett (direction); and *Fudim Locomotive Indus-*

*tries' Cave In Cave Out* lot of craziness, kung fu, and glam rock prom kings orchestrated by choreographer, Jessica Fudim. \$10-\$15 (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. Also April 12 & 13. New College Theater, 777 Valencia St. (at 19th St.). Tix: 437-3487.

### Maximum Rock N' Roll @ Balazo/Mission

Balazo/Mission Badlands Gallery hosts Maximum Rock N' Roll's "The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly." Featuring videos and hundreds of photographs chronicling 20+ years of the SF and Int'l. Punk scenes. Ear-immolating tunes spun for you by MRR's own In-house DJs. \$5 door. 8pm-midnight. 2811 Mission St. (at 24th St. BART). Info: 550-1108 email: balazogallery@yahoo.com

### Humanities West @ Palace of Fine Arts

Humanities West presents "The First Flowering of Byzantium," opening with a lecture and music performance tonight (8pm) and continuing with an all-day (10am-4:30pm) program of lectures and reading on Saturday. Discover the life and times of Constantine the Great, the architecture of Justinian's cathedrals, etc. \$30-\$65 (\$20 students/teachers). Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Marina at Lyon. Tix: 392-4400. Info: 391-9700; humanitieswest.org

## Sat

### Kuper's 'Undressed' @ Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSCA) presents AIR-space artist-in-residence Eric Kupers performing "The Undressed Project: Phase II," a dance experiment that explodes popular conceptions of public nudity. Choreographer Kupers and Dandelion Dance Theater examine the issues and possibilities that arise from dancing without clothes in a group diverse in



Humanities West's "The First Flowering of Byzantium" unfolds at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. See Friday.



Kelly Osbourne shuts up at The Fillmore. See Sunday

body shape, size, color, ability and age. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix: 554-0402; www.jonsimscctr.org.

### HMI workshops @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute workshops: "The Pen is Mightier" with Zak Szymanski and New Howe, a one-day column-writing workshop for queer youth (free, 1-4pm, 25 & under); "Dyke Dating 303: Loving the Girl" with Angela Watrous (\$20; 1-4pm); and "Introduction to Practical Issues in Gay Male Dating" with Jamie Moran (\$20; 1-5pm). Registration: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

### Youth Theater Festival @ City College

The SF Mime Troupe presents the Seventh Annual Youth Theater Festival, themed "Conflict: Near and Far." Featuring 40 high school students involved with the Harvey Milk Institute, the Gay Straight Alliance, and other groups. Free. 7pm. Also April 13 at 2pm. Diego Rivera Theater, City College, 50 Phelan Drive. Info: 285-1717.

### Gay/Lesbian Sierrans @ Ft. Baker

Celebrate Earth Day by joining Gay and Lesbian Sierrans at Ft. Baker Adopt-a-Site Day, an ongoing habitat restoration project. Meet at Ft. Baker (at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge), at the parking lot between the Parade Grounds and the Children's Discovery Museum, at 9:15am. Bring work boots, layers, rain gear, water & lunch. Info: 510-531-9345; csteane@earthlink.net

### SF Hiking Club @ Bonita Lighthouse

Join other outdoors lovers for a Bonita Lighthouse Hike. Enjoy views from the Marin Headlands, WWII batteries, and the lighthouse. A moderately leisurely 10-mile hike with 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; sfhiking.com

### Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgressors over the age of 55, will hold their monthly potluck at noon. They also seek volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info/rides

### Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano holds a potluck and get-together in the Castro for all Bay Area gay men, regardless of their Spanish-speaking abilities. Info: 420-4670.

### Melanie DeMore @ MWCAC, Oakland

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club (MWCAC) presents singer/songwriter, vocalist and choral director Melanie DeMore (Linda Tilley and The Cultural Heritage Choir). \$20 adv.; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix: 510-339-1832; eastbayvoice.org

### 'Bump n' Funk' @ Border Cantina

Sunset Party DJ Galen teams up with DJs Mike G & Sunil, Anthony Garlic, and Todd Michael in the Main Room, with Dubwise, Carlos Gibbs, and Lawrence Adams in the new Side Room. \$5 b4 11pm, \$7 after. 9:30pm-late. The Border Cantina, 1192 Folsom St. (at 8th St.).

## Sun

### Yogis for Peace

Join yogis in studios throughout the Bay Area in a day of simultaneous classes dedicated to cultivating the practice of Ahimsa (non-violence) through yoga. All proceeds donated to Oxfam America (oxfamamerica.org) for aid to the people of Iraq. Participating studios include **Castro Yoga** (Iyengar with David Nelson, 11am-12:30pm, 4450 18th St. Info: 552-9644; castroyoga.com), **It's Yoga** (Ashtanga with Larry Schultz: 9:30am primary series; 11:30am beginner, 4:30pm mixed levels. Info: 543-1970); **Open Door Yoga** (Flow class with Johanna Murphy, 9:30-11am, 1500 Castro St. Info: 824-5657; opendooryoga.com); **Sacred Space Healing Center** (776 Haight St. at Scott. Info: 431-0878; sacredspace-st.com); **Soma Yoga** (10-11:30am power yoga with James Burkhardt, 3350 20th St. at Shotwell Info: 920-9680; somayoga.com); and **Yoga Tree** (9-10:30am practice with Karl Erb, 1234 Valencia St. at 23rd St. Info: 647.9707; yogatreesf.com). For a complete details, visit [www.temescalartscenter.org/peace/index.htm](http://www.temescalartscenter.org/peace/index.htm)





Opening at Space 743: "Unlikely Saints," a new body of work by San Francisco artist Gregg Cassin, whose Catholic roots, HIV status, sexuality, anger and hope all greatly influence his vision. See Friday.

#### Kelly Osbourne @ The Fillmore

Making the most of her 15 minutes of fame, Kelly Osbourne, Ozzy's youngest daughter, takes her snotty bad attitude on the road. The punk-haired-diva-bitch-in-training will be performing songs from her debut album, *Shut Up*, which features the sort of bratty teen rock/pop you'd expect from the "anti-Britney." Opening the show is *Har Mar Superstar*, a fat balding white guy who strips down to his underwear while singing - sincerely and shockingly well - like a black R&B crooner. \$20. 8pm. 1805 Geary Blvd. 346-6000; [www.thefillmore.com](http://www.thefillmore.com)

#### SF Hiking Club @ Frog Lake

Join other outdoors lovers for a Frog Lake & Poverty Flat Hike. Enjoy rugged terrain and extensive vistas of Henry Coe State Park. Moderately strenuous hike with a 2,100-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Do-

lores. Info: 487-6410; [stihiking.com](mailto:stihiking.com)

#### 'Barber of Seville' @ Temple Emanu-El

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera presents a riotous English-language version of one of the great Italian comic operas, Gioacchino Antonio Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, first performed in Rome in 1816. \$32 general; \$16 youth (under 18). 3pm. Martin Meyer Auditorium at Temple Emanu-El, 2 Lake St. (at Arguello). Tix: 1-800-303-1677; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com). Info: 972-8930; [pocketopera.org](http://pocketopera.org)

#### Mon 14

#### 'QComedy' @ The Center

"QComedy: Monday Nights at The Center," an evening of queer comedy hosted by Mike Uryga, with Heather Gold, Lisa Geduldig, Nick Leonard, Ronn Vigh, Shanique Scott, George Simmons, and Bridget

Schwartz. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. San Francisco. \$8-\$15 sliding (NO-TAFL0F). Doors 7:30pm; show at 8 pm. Tix/info: 865-5633; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org)

#### SF Jacks

**@ Power Exchange**  
Opening reception: "SF Jacks' Cock/Tale Reception," a cock art show in honor of SF Jacks' 20th Anniversary. Yes, they've been hosting allude masturbation parties for two decades. Featuring 20-ft. long wooden phalluses artistically transformed by 20 local artists and personalities, including Keith Hennessey, Matthew Simmons, Jack Davis, Michael Johnstone and David Faulk (aka Mr. Tina and Mrs. Vera), Chaz Hardman, Lord Huckleberry, Jordy Jones, John F. Karr, Sister Roma, David Ross, Allen Sawyer, and Jerry Zientara. Free. Everyone, especially including women, welcome. 6-7:30pm (Reception followed by the traditional male-only Jacks' party). 74 Otis (near Gough). Info: 267-6999; [SF-Jacks.com](http://SF-Jacks.com)



Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera presents Jorge Garza, Will Connolly and Willa Anderson in Rossini's comic opera *Barber of Seville* at Temple Emanu-El. See Sunday.

#### Tue 15

#### Women's Book Group @ ADL Bookstore

The Women's Book Group meets to discuss this month's selection, Helen Sandler's *The Touch Typist*. Free. 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; [adlbooks.com](http://adlbooks.com)

#### Wed 16

#### 'White Disabled Talent' @ NCTC

Preview: New Conservatory Theatre Center in association with Greg Walloch present *White Disabled Talent*, written and performed by Greg Walloch. Jerry Stiller calls it "one of the most profound pieces of comedy in the most truthful way." \$15 previews (April 16-18); \$25 gala opening (April 19); \$17 Wed/Thu; \$20 Fri-Sun. Thru April 27. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 861-8972; [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org)

#### 'Theatre Rhino's Spring Fling' @ The Center

P.A. Cooley hosts "Theatre Rhino's Spring Fling," a night of comedy, song, dance, drag queen and mayhem benefiting Theatre Rhinoceros, featuring the Inquiline Players, Sean Owens, Doug Holsclaw, John Gale, The Acid Housewives, the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, and surprise guests. \$20. 8pm. 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 861-5079; [therhino.org](http://therhino.org)

#### Thu 17

#### 'Art of Injustice' @ SFSU

Opening reception: "The Art of Injustice," installations by Paul Maurice, who creates non-apologetic installations reflecting the injustices of institutionalized racism and violence within the prison industrial complex, as well as police brutality across the United States. Free. 10am-6pm Mon-Wed; 10am-3pm Thu & Fri. Cesar Chavez Student Center Art Gallery (Terrace Level), San Francisco State University. Info: 338-2580; [sfsustudentcenter.com/art-gallery](http://sfsustudentcenter.com/art-gallery)

#### Hank Edwards @ ADL Bookstore

Charlie Heggensford is fresh off the family farm when he stumbles into the LA offices of Fluffers, Inc. Here his natural talents are quickly put to use, but he's a little too good at what he does. Join author Hank Edwards as he recounts Charlie adventures from his debut, erotic novel, *Fluffers, Inc.* Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; [adlbooks.com](http://adlbooks.com)

#### WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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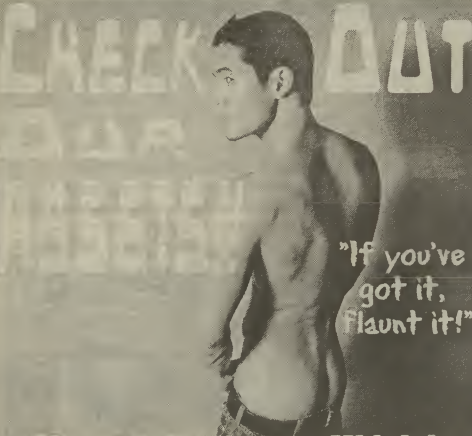


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# American Brotherhood

## Weekend coming April 25-27 in DC

by Mister Marcus

It appears as though all the competitions around the country, in Canada, Mexico and Europe are complete and the winners will convene in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend for the big 25th anniversary of International Mr. Leather.

It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since David Kloss of San Francisco was chosen to be the very first man to hold the title; yet, here it is, the community is on the brink of celebrating another milestone. Stephen Weber will step aside that weekend and a new titleholder will occupy the throne.

How many of the past winners will be on hand is open to conjecture, but many of them will be for certain. It has been a long haul; the celebration should be one to remember.

In the meantime, various other major titles have sprung up, the next big one being American Brotherhood Weekend (ABW) in Washington, D.C. the weekend of April 25-27. You couldn't want for a better time to be in the nation's capital. Spring in the air, the cherry blossoms in bloom and another set of leather icons is to be chosen: American Leather Man, American Leather Woman and American Leather Boy 2003.

The Washington Plaza Hotel is the venue, with scads of events wedged in to keep you occupied. The weekend will be dedicated to Bryan Mullikin, the American Leather Boy who recently passed over, and the late Jeff Baxter, long associated with the ABW family — fitting tributes to two men who epitomized leather pride.

If you have not yet made your plans for ABW you should not hesitate. All the info you need to know can be found on their revamped web site. Just click on [www.americanbrotherhood.com](http://www.americanbrotherhood.com).

ABW has formed a partnership with a Washington DC-based organization Eagles Wings, dedicated to raising funds for Brother Help Thyself and the National Minority AIDS Council featuring auctioneers Jo Arnone from NYC and Lenny Broberg of San Francisco.



David Lemier, left, is Mr. November 2004 on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. He appeared with runner-up Kent Blackford, last Thursday, April 3 at the Powerhouse. Mr. December 2004 will be chosen on Thursday, April 17.

### Leather Sir/Boy

Out in the provinces, grassroots contests are being held as feeder events for International Leather Sir and Boy 2003, to be held at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida in October. The titles, which replace the defunct International Mr. Drummer and boy titles, are also divided into regions, and almost all of them are on the schedule of events already.



Leather

### Calendar update

Next Thursday, April 17, the final *SoMa Bare Chest Calendar* competition will take place at the Powerhouse Bar when Mr. December 2004 will be chosen, ending the "calendar season" for this year. On Thursday, April 24, the 12 winners will compete for the cover of the 2004 calendar and the runner-up will be on the back cover.

Last Thursday, April 3, four men stepped up to compete for the Mr. November 2004 spot on the calendar. Judges Patrick Batt, Mike Romero, David Kloss and Rod Wood faced off with Kent Blackford, Brad Cavalier, Troy Harris and David Lemier as the audience roared their support for the contestants. A hearty crowd was on hand when it was announced that David Lemier would take the October 2004 spot on the calendar. It was cold out-

side, but inside, Scott Peterson's crew made sure everyone was taken care of.

### Dildeaux Awards

Voting in 22 categories for the Golden Gate Guards MC annual Golden Dildeaux Awards ends at midnight this coming Saturday, April 12. There are even some write-ins this time around and one SoMa bartender in particular is being touted in at least two categories. The awards take place at the Eagle Tavern on Saturday, April 19 with Donna Sachet and Lenny Broberg emceeing.

If you've never been to this particular event, you are in for what is commonly known as a "bumpy ride". Lenny and Donna spare no one while they describe the nature of each award and throw in the names of people who should have been nominated. It is one of the campiest nights of the year.

Ballots are only \$1 at several of your favorite bars. As they do in Chicago, vote early and vote often. See you there when the winners of the world's only sex awards are announced.

### Leather for the homeless

On Saturday, April 19, from coast to coast, leather people will be showing that they care for the homeless in our land with food, clothing and monetary donations for homeless shelters in their areas.

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, April 11-13

7th Annual Leather Leadership Conference at the Boston Park Plaza in Bean Town. Info: [www.leatherleadership.org](http://www.leatherleadership.org).

### Saturday, April 12

Yosemite Chapter Knights of Malta present "The Villians" at the North Tower Circle in Fresno to benefit Brian X, Mr. Central California Leather 2003.

### Tuesday, April 15

The Hole in the Wall celebrates its 9th anniversary all day today and tonight. Specials until closing.

### Wednesday, April 16

Show off your skivvies at 933 Harrison tonight at Underwear Buddies. Doors open 1900-2300. Call 777-HEAD for info.

### Thursday, April 17

Final bare chest contest at the Powerhouse Bar at 2130 tonight when Mr. December 2004 will be

chosen. The judges are Dax Berg, Joe Wagenhofer, J.S. Geras and Audrey Joseph. Don't miss the finale for 2003.

### Weekend, April 17-21

Easter 2003 in Berlin with the Mr. Germany Leather 2003 contest. For more info, surf to [www.blf.de](http://www.blf.de).

### Friday, April 18

Porn maven Will Clark hosts Spring Fling 03 at Daddy's with a bevy of porn actors. Also the SF Exiles monthly gathering at the Women's Bldg. With doors open 1930, program at 2000. Subject is: What is Women's Space Now? Lousy parking.

### Saturday, April 19

Leather National Day of Caring all over the country with benefits for the homeless in your community. Do your share!

Golden Dildeaux Awards ceremony, an evening of supreme camp. No one will be spared by emcees Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet. Did you win one of the world's only sex awards? Be there!



## PORN

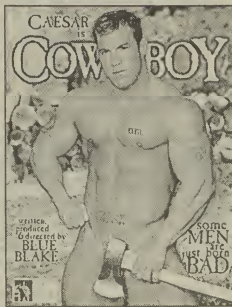
# He gives me seizure

by John F. Karr

I know that my love can become too big for just one man, but can one man become too big for my love? That's the quandary I'm in over Caesar, the ragingly carnal porn star who started out voluptuously muscular but who is now cloaking himself with the armored bulk of competition bodybuilding. "Caesar" was the code word that Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas used for orgasm, which makes it an apt name for the performer who is the *objet de mon desir*, because that's what he does: he gives me seizure. And if the image I've conjured of the legendary lesbian couple at the climactic moment of passion is startling, it's nothing compared to the vision of the immensity that is Caesar lolling on his bed in the first scene of *Cowboy*.

You'll want to watch this in slow motion, because director Blue Blake doesn't linger. It's a little like being shown the gates of paradise in a flip-book: the most stunning vistas lurch abruptly past. Caesar lies splayed upon his back, the warm boulders of his body both plushly inviting and majestically unyielding. This is a body that surges even in repose, yet Caesar is caught in a nightmare, and roils vertiginously. In the unending curve of his abdomen, and in his gigantic thighs, each a continent unto itself, there's the vastness of an ocean. And bobbing atop the vortex of their churning swells of muscle is a buoyantly tumescent boner. Is it any wonder Caesar is so seizurous?

Certainly Rhett O'Hara finds him so, and throws himself onto Caesar with lusty hunger. O'Hara is Caesar's younger brother in every way but the muscle: they're



both dirty talkers, and each has an indolently cocky attitude and punk tattoos, including a name mooning over the navel in that unreadable Gothic font. But most of all, their ardor reads as amorous. They're just masquerading as bruisers, these baby dolls. And they go at each other like gang-busters, 69ing and rimming

with gusto while the camera feasts over all their better parts. Dizzying editing effects extend the orgasm's aftermath, popper-like, making you feel as if you're the one who just blew your wad and are coming back to your senses.

## Stuffed animal

And then Caesar stands up to pull on his jeans, and I see the grotesque proportions his body has attained. His stomach's become an armadillo's back, his ass is a shelf of steroids, and his overbuilt torso has made his arms too short. He's gone from fully packed to uncomfortably stuffed. Oh, yes, a man can become too big for my love.

Even so, I try to be indulgent. But I wonder. Could Caesar's amorous horniness be as unreal as his body? And that's where Blue Blake's calmly composed

and unusual study of the character nicknamed Cowboy begins to reap diminishing returns for Caesar. While mythologizing Caesar's tough persona, it uncomfortably blurs the line between porn star and his fictional presentation. Cowboy's a grifter taking advantage of the people who throw themselves at his demigod body and blatant sexuality. Cowboy throws himself back at them in strenuously romantic fucks, and, as they slumber post-sex, he rips them off and hits the road. Not a likable character at all, even before we find out he's a triple murderer, and long before he goes psycho like Jack Nicholson in *The Shining* and storms toward his boyfriend, wielding an ax. Caesar's rigorously Neanderthal lovemaking is exciting until you realize that Cowboy/Caesar and his partners never climax together, but in scene after scene only jerk off to separate conclusions. Appropriate to character, perhaps, but ultimately unsatisfying to our porno fantasy, in which we want to be loved by our love object.

Handsomely photographed, *Cowboy* is a Caesar feast, with the star featured in three scenes (although the first is unaccountably short, and should have been expanded at the expense of a nice but unnecessary solo with young muscleboy Sal Lombardi). Caesar woos a starry-eyed young ranch owner (Dane Brando) into sheltering him, and vows an arresting officer (Brad Rock) into releasing him by offering up his butt. The generous two-hour feature also includes a romp with Tom Katt and handsome Evan Taylor, and a half-hour three-way for some heavily built muscle daddies. If you love muscle, and don't stop to think about the unlovability of your love object, *Cowboy* is a non-stop beat-off. ▼

www.blueblake.com; (800) 733-3393

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

There are so many events planned all over the country it is impossible to list them all.

Leather women in San Francisco jumped the gun on the "Leather Day of Caring" mandated by Ms. World Karen McGee and the Ms. World organization. The local leather women held their benefit last Saturday, March 29 with a "Trading for Tacos" benefit at the Eagle Tavern. An astounding 15 barrels of toiletries, care packages, underwear and other vital necessities were brought in by leather people while Ms. Billie the Leather Dyke Diva and IM, the Leather Dyke Grrl emceed'd and guided the program.

The Exiles of SF donated the tacos and of course a good time was had by all.

## SMMILE beneficiaries

Sally McDonnell, Board President of SMMILE, issued a press



Michael Jupe of Munich, is Mr. Bavarian Leather 2003 and will compete for the IML 2003 title in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend.

release last week announcing the beneficiaries of both Up Your Alley (in July) and Folsom Street Fair (in Sept.) and they are: Episcopal Community Services, PRC, Visual Aid, Project Open Hand, Dolores St. Community Housing, Black Coalition on AIDS, GG Per-

forming Arts, Lyon-Martin Clinic, Bay Area Positives, Destination Foundation and the Stop AIDS Project.

It will be the 20th anniversary of Folsom, so everyone is gearing up for another hot time in San Francisco. ▼

## Film clips

◀ page 31

Xiao Ji and Bin Bin chase after girls who have different futures in mind. A sublimely sensual moment occurs when Qiao Qiao (Zhao Tao), after revealing the

significance of her butterfly tattoo, towels Xiao Ji's mop of hair dry as the couple contemplates the future they won't spend together. The brutal monotony of their lives is captured in a scene where Xiao Ji is punished for flirting with the wrong girl by the henchmen of the local beer baron,

his pretty face slapped repeatedly until we experience a sensation akin to the off-kilter eroticism of Andy Warhol's *Blow Job*. The boys' stab at crime (sticking up a bank with a fake weapon) is as doomed as Belmondo in *Breathless*. "The bomb looks real, but you don't." (Opens Friday.) ▼

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### PARTING GLANCES

**"Where Are You Billy?"**  
Whatever happened to Billy Harris? Please call- Thank you. ☎ 72480

**Fri 3/14 5:40pm Embarcadero Bart Station**  
We disembarked at Glen Park, I said hi, you cute Asian guy, me White guy with NY cap. My apologies for not asking you out. Wanna give me another chance? ☎ 72481

**•Missed Connection Sunday 3/16•**  
Friendly smiles @ Sweet Inspiration/ Fillmore Street. You walking down stairs w/cap and friend- me seated w/friend @ table. Should have said hello- want to try again? ☎ 72482

**Shattuck Cinema 3/22 9:35p.m.**  
Movie "View From the Top". To male college couple sitting in back. I was two seats away. Wanted to say hello after, but too shy. Would like to be friends to both of you. Pls call. ☎ 72497

**3/21 - Briazz Van on Fell - 12 noon**  
Hot blond driver, Cruised me as you circled block 3 times. I was late for appointment, otherwise would have stopped. Leave message on how to contact you. ☎ 72498

**3/19 Wed. Embarcadero Cntr 1pm**  
You'd just left Banana Republic. I was walking with co-worker. Shared a great smile. My other friends said you turned around right after I'd done the same. Let's Hook up. ☎ 72499

**San Bruno Parking Lot 3/24**  
You were in your car. Let's meet this time. ☎ 72507

**Erasure Concert 3-21-03**  
We were talking, dancing and we kissed. Would really like to see you again. Tried calling, but it was the wrong number. ☎ 72508

**J Car 3/27**  
You long grey beard with Italian book. Me - Red beard. You sat next to me, smiled as I left at Market. Please call. ☎ 72509

**Paul Taylor Sat. 3/29**  
Me: Older WM dressed in black, bald w/glasses with Asian friend. You: good-looking Asian in jeans/white top, with two friends in row in front of us. Let's Talk ☎ 72510

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**IUncut, Hung, 9, Hair, Masc, Musc, HIV+**  
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, moustache/ goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. May/June. Nude photo required, but photo get mine. I am HIV+ / ok! ☎ 72483

**Middle Aged GWM**  
6'-200lb daddy wantabe with dark hair & moustache. Honest, spiritual, open-minded, easy to live with. I like gardens, cooking, dogs, weekend trips. Looking for younger (28-36) G.M. any race, mature, with similar ideas about living, who likes to clean house. ☎ 72484

**Sonoma Co. Top**  
Handsome HIV- 6ft, 175, 51, good shape hung seeks bottom buddy for every weekend long sessions- Be in shape 25-40, Bk A+ don't wait. ☎ 72485

**Asian Bottom Seeks Muscular...**  
Top, 18-35, I'm 29, 5'5", 120lbs fit, smooth, athletic, toned, and extremely goodlooking, fine, cute, and attractive! Prefer White. ☎ 72486

**Seriously Seeking Cute Long WM**  
I'm 35, Bk+, 5'9", 139, 3/4" uncut. Desires to meet you. I will serve you like a king in all ways. Treat me

well, and I will be the best thing in your life. ☎ 72511

**Muscular Italian Amer seeks**  
Asian. Professionally employed, responsible, sincere. 44yrs. Seeks a smooth, toned/muscular Asian. I'm passionate and cultured. Please no games/bar scene. ☎ 72512

**Seeking Tough Nip Workout**  
Buddy. 48 WGM, 220#, Brn., Bln., salt&pepper, tats, piercing. Serious nip pig with huge erect nips! ISO hardcore nip pig workout buddy for extensive nip workout sessions. Smokers A+. ☎ 72513

**GJM 40 Near Lake Merritt**  
Seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. ☎ 72519

**Want a Mentor?**  
Looking for young men 22-32 who feel they need a little guidance by this 58 yr, 6'1", 195, GWM, NS, LD preferred. I enjoy time at home, weekend drives, cooking gardening, dogs etc. You like other things? Great! I'll learn from you too. ☎ 72520

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Novice/Curious Nudist (?)**  
Preferably but not mandatory, hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups etc, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in anal/oral manner. ☎ 72487

**"Bondage!"**  
Slim and hairy or smooth men needed to explore erotic and sensual aspects of bondage. No fat or feds please- From mild to heavy. ☎ 72488

**\*Hot Bods\***  
Student photographer wants to shoot some hot studs for my portfolio. Show me your stuff and have fun. Nice butts a plus. Love to rim!! ☎ 72489

**Smooth Slender Cocks Wanted!**  
G/W/M, 6'1", 200lbs is seeking a group of well hung slender and smooth guys. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me! ☎ 72490

**Ball Worshipper**  
Seeks long low loose hangers w/uncircumstized dick for kissing, licking, sucking, stroking to orgasm. Be very smooth, clean shaven, submissive, moaner. Feed me your hot sweet throbbing balls. ☎ 72491

**Spank Your Butt**  
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175lbs, seeks well-built bottom with nice, round ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72492

**SouthBay Bearish Landscape Cont.**  
Educated, fun, travelled, 6' blind, blue, 44yr hairy, moustache, 190, HIV+, seeks GWM HIV- 32-46 masculine, open, honest, smart, big armed buddy for camping, hot spring making out in the wilderness, cuddling, oral sex, friendship sense of humor, adventure, world travel maybe more! ☎ 72493

**Sub seeking Dom Black Top**  
Boysub sub, 41 yrs., white 5'6", 150lbs seeking DOM Black top for an ongoing playmate. Seeking training and guidance through restraints, toys, verbal, etc. ☎ 72500

**Horny GWM Seeks Same**  
I kick back for long, slow suck worship. If you are hung(7real inches or more) reciprocation or 69 possible. Me-41, 5'11", 185 lbs, hairy, muscular, brn/hzl, HIV-Poz, 7 real inches. You hairy A+, h/wt proportional. ☎

72501

**Oral Expert for Hung Males**  
BM, muscular, masculine, hung, good looking. Seeking to service hung males 21-50. Italians/Latinos a plus. Bi OK. Satisfaction guaranteed. All replies will be answered. \$ 72502

**Hot Passionate East Bay Bottom**  
39 year old WM 5'9", 150lbs, Blond, swimmer's build, 8". Open to most scenes. Looking for Top Men for hot sex. Possible relationship can travel to SF. ☎ 72503

**Black Top seeks Bottom to Plow**  
Masculine Bk top, 6'1", 225# seeks total submissive to fuck. Be clean shaven, smooth all over, HIV-. ☎ 72504

**Seeking Senior to Fuck My Face**  
Masculine WM seeks over 65 WM to grab back of my head and fast fuck my face, stopping short and finishing by shooting your load on my face. ☎ 72505

**Desires Thickened Cock Average**  
/masculine guy. Heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok. Your place, pm only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 72506

**Are you 40-50? Like Head?**  
Cocksucker seeks dominate top to blow. Height & weight not as important as attitude. You are in charge Sir. Boy is 40, tall, HIV+, attractive. Likes tit work, sucking and being told what to do. ☎ 72514

**Full Deepthroat Oral Service**  
By SF GWM, 6'1", 185#, fit, GL, friendly, masculine, HIV-, D/D free. Complete oral service delivered to your place with no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 72515

**Neighborhood Oral- J/O Buddy**  
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Masculine, discreet, WM, 5'10", 170#. 7"u/c needs regular care. I am HIV-, disease free.UB also, can travel. ☎ 72521

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WLM 46, 6', 165lbs, moderate hairy. ISO older M who is a regular cigar/cigarette smoker who enjoys deep kissing, affection & oral pleasures. No gay scene or Lifestyle. Body type not important. ☎ 72522

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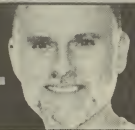
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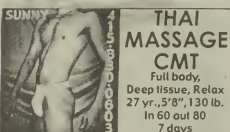
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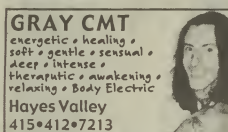
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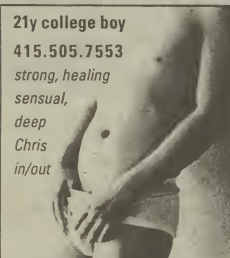
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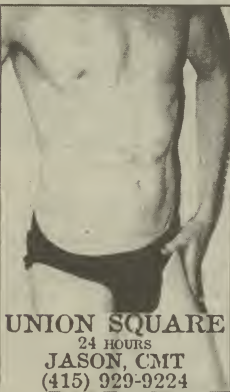
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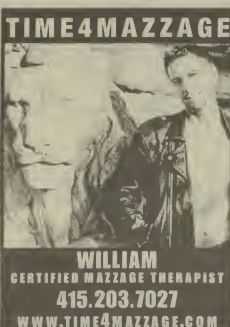
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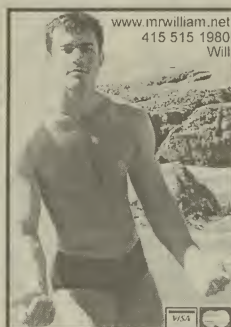
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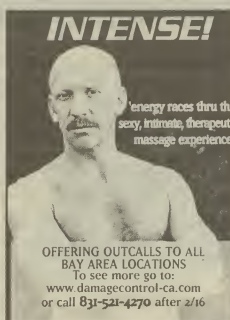
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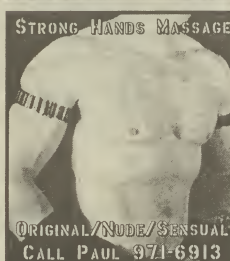
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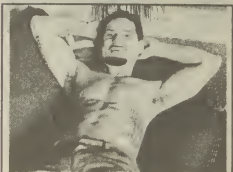
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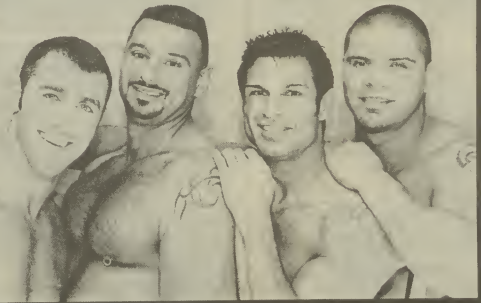
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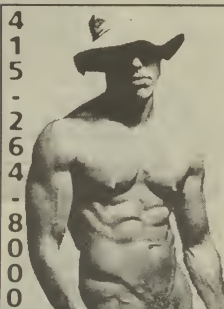
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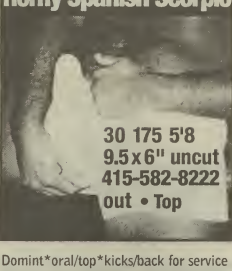
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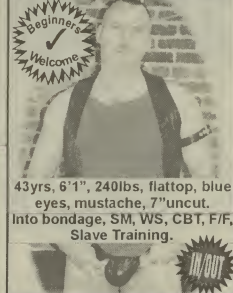
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Eddie, 23, 5'6", 135#, brn/brn, 7x6uc  
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Very versatile, In/out calls  
Moises, 20, 5'7", 138#, blk/brn, 8uc  
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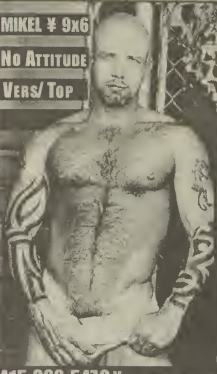
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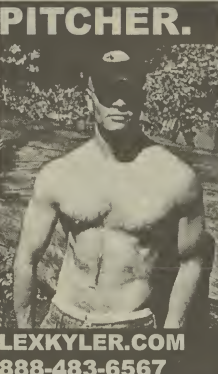
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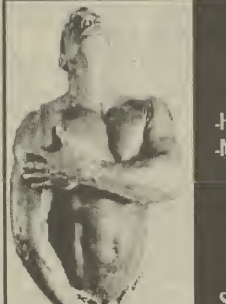
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 \$200 Out only  
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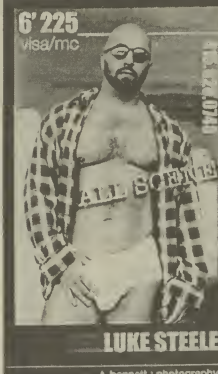
Great build 21yr old for Escort  
 or Massage. Angel (415) 756-7947  
 Outcalls only please. Girls or boys  
 welcome.

**HOT HOT HOT**  
 Young erotic Afro Asian escorts  
 Tim 510 388 4074

28yo 6' 180lbs no attitude  
**SLIM AND HANDSOME GUY**  
 CALL JOE 415 235-3980

Assology-cheek play 4 xtc.gorgeous  
 Asian will tantralise 573-5696

**6' 225**  
 visa/mc



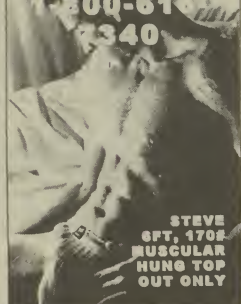
**LUKE STEELE**  
 L.bennett : photography

**6'3"**  
**240#**



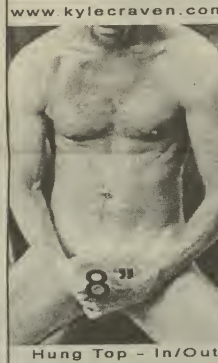
**DaddyBRUNO.com**  
**415.496.6235**

**1-800-611-2340**



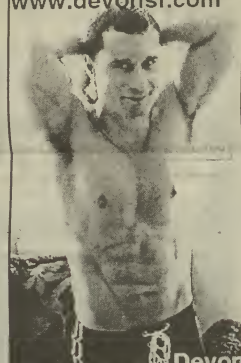
**STEVE**  
**6FT, 470#**  
**MUSCULAR**  
**HUNG TOP**  
**OUT ONLY**

**www.kylacraven.com**



**Hung Top - In/Out**  
**415-724-6016**

**www.devonsf.com**



**Devon**

**JONATHAN**



**Passionate**  
**Handsome**  
**Versatile**  
**Friendly**  
**Beautiful**  
**Hazel Eyes**  
**5'11"/175#**  
**Very Well**  
**Equipped**

**GEL: 465-2662**

**Tony**  
**Scalia**



**Gay-Video Star**  
**(415)595-3942**  
**www.tonyscalia.com**

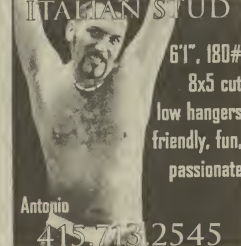
23yrs 6'5", 190# c/n cut top  
**BOY NEXT DOOR**  
 Discreet masculine Whiteboy w/tan  
 nice body 9" c std free. In/out sexy!  
**WHOVIAN.HN.ORG/ROB OR**  
**MY CELL 724-6222**

**VIDEO SUPER STAR....**  
**CODY-WHLER**  
**934-0716**  
[www.geocities.com/cody94114](http://www.geocities.com/cody94114)

**ITALIAN LOVER MAN**  
 (Oh where can you be?)  
 (415) 775-4771 24-hours

**FURRY**  
**OTTER**  
 World love to play  
 Randy 510-830-7727 massage avbl.

**ITALIAN STUD**  
**6'1", 180#**  
**8x5 cut**  
 low hangers  
 friendly, fun,  
 passionate



**Antonio**  
**415.713.2545**

**24 IRISH STUD**  
 9 true inches 5'11" 170# in/out  
 Call David 415-573-5692

**SPANKING/DISCIPLINE**  
 Real/Role-play 415-864-2766



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**FOR OVER 10 Years**

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18+ Callers are not pre-screened. 800-825-1558.

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510-859-2000  
Other Local #s  
1-888-272-7277 Use Code: 2160  
1-900-505-2323 (\$1.99/min.)

**FREE TRIAL**

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**Hot Local Guys!** **MrN**

Bay Area's hottest chatline

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Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!  
Try it for **FREE**

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**M4M**

**ALL FEATURES FREE!**

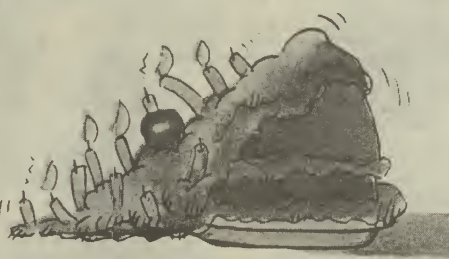
**voice MALE**

415-856-0222  
Use Free Access Code 9212

18+ Callers are not pre-screened. 800-825-1558.

Try us at [www.DatingGay.com](http://www.DatingGay.com)

**Happy Birthday Rick!!!**



You look great for 45! Thanks for being a good friend and being able to take a joke.

**Horny Straight Guys**  
Live Male Chat.  
Record/listen to ads **FREE!**  
415-402-1010 or  
1-888-272-7277 T/F  
FREE w/code 2166



**GET LUCKY TONIGHT!**  
Find yours tonight!  
18+ Record & Listen **FREE!**  
Call 415-247-2000 Use Access code: 4858

WAAAAAH,  
WAAAAAH,  
WAAAAAH!  
enough said.

**THE LAST BARE CHEST CONTEST**  
(for Mr. December 2004) is on  
THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH @ THE  
POWERHOUSE. Your last chance to  
get on the calendar this year! At 9:30  
P.M. Be there!

Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days 707-823-3895

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Location".  
Call 4 apptmt \* 626-1168

Bare-Assed Spanking  
Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185

**S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO**  
415-864-2766 or Private Session.

**BAD BOYS SPANKED**  
Over Daddy's Knee  
(415) 864-2766

**MAMA'S LEATHMAN 03?**  
Watch for important announcement  
coming soon. Winner will compete for  
the Mr. SF Leather 2004 title the  
night before the Folsom St. Fair.

TOP wants submissive butt pigs.  
415-752-0971.

Local Men Sexdate: 888-788-8989

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SF BOYS OF LEATHER**  
on the success of your Pre-Oscar  
Party @ Daddy's on Saturday, March  
22nd. Good show!

## BAY AREA REPORTER

## PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

## DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

## MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

BAY AREA  
REPORTER  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

OR FAX TO:  
415.861.8144



## PERSONALS

## PEOPLE

**WANTED!****BAY AREA MEN**

- Live Talk
  - Meet Ads
  - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours  
\$2.00  
976-7500

**Free**  
(415) 981-8123

Dad dominates big guys 665-4825 E16

**MR. SF LEATHER 2004**  
contest is Saturday, Sep. 27th, 2003  
Are you man/leather enough to hold  
the title? Plan now. Get involved! E15

**HOTHOUSE.COM/FREE XXX**  
**HOTHOUSE.COM/FREE XXX**  
**HOTHOUSE.COM/FREE XXX** E17

Spank as U Lik It. 510-654-1122 E23

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**  
**STEPHEN BLACKWELL**  
Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 and  
good luck in Chicago next month! E15

**"MAMA" REINHARDT**  
Recipient of the National Emerald  
Award in Seattle last Saturday, Mar.  
29 joins the list of previous winners:  
Mr. Marcus, Lenny Broberg, Frank  
Nowicki, Judy Tallwing McCarthy  
and numerous deserving individuals. E15

Spank As U lik it 510-654-1122 E23

**THE LAST CHANCE**  
(for Mr. December 2004) is on  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH @ THE**  
**POWERHOUSE.** Your last chance to  
get on the calendar this year! At 9:30  
PM. Be there! E16

**\*\*FOR HIRE\*\***

Student needs xtra cash. Will per-  
form odd jobs, filing, yardwork, etc.  
Minimum job - \$50. Be creative.  
Call Justin @ 902-1488. E15

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**  
**DADDY BEAR CHUCK**  
of Sunnyvale, Bear of the Month  
Check him out at bearfilms.com. E18

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**  
**DAVID LEMIEL**  
MR OCTOBER 2004 ON THE SOMA  
BARE CHEST CALENDAR. Check  
him out on www.LeatherPage.com E15

**LEATHER NEWS**

from around the U.S. & Canada by  
seasoned journalists ONLY on  
www.LeatherPage.com. Check it out! E20

**COMMITTED THREESOME?**  
Share your positive experiences and  
challenges with likeminded folks  
Polyamorous03@hotmail.com. E15

**YOU'RE GAY**

C'mon, you've been going to the gym  
and working on your chest for years.  
Isn't it time you got some recognition  
for it? You could be Mr. December  
2004 on the Bare Chest Calendar.  
It's your last chance to be on the  
2004 calendar. Competition is  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH @ THE**  
**POWERHOUSE.** Your last chance to  
get on the calendar this year! Starts  
at 9:30 PM. Be there! E16

Good Head in Sonoma County.  
Call Days 707-823-3895 E18

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Lo-  
cation". Call 4 apptmt \* 626-1168 E20

Bare-Assed Spanking  
Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185 E10 2003

**S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO**  
415-864-2766 or Private Session. E19

**BAD BOYS SPANKED**  
Over Daddy's Knee  
(415) 864-2766 E16

## XXX WEB

# SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED ON M4M!

- **Constant shortness of breath at night**
- **Pressing need to buy more sheets**
- **Day-dreaming about tonight's date**



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WHAT YOU REALLY WANT ALL THE TIME!

**EMAIL**  
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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

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**LOOK-ALIKE**  
**VIDEO ONLY**  
\$14.97  
\$9.95 S&H  
Guaranteed you  
will love it!!  
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Hot daddies and their admirers.  
Photo ads, galleries, models.  
Looking for daddy models 40-65.  
models@hotoldermale.com  
Call 800-837-6007 E17

How many **licks**  
does it take to  
get to the  
**center**  
of a ...

**n2mansex.com™**

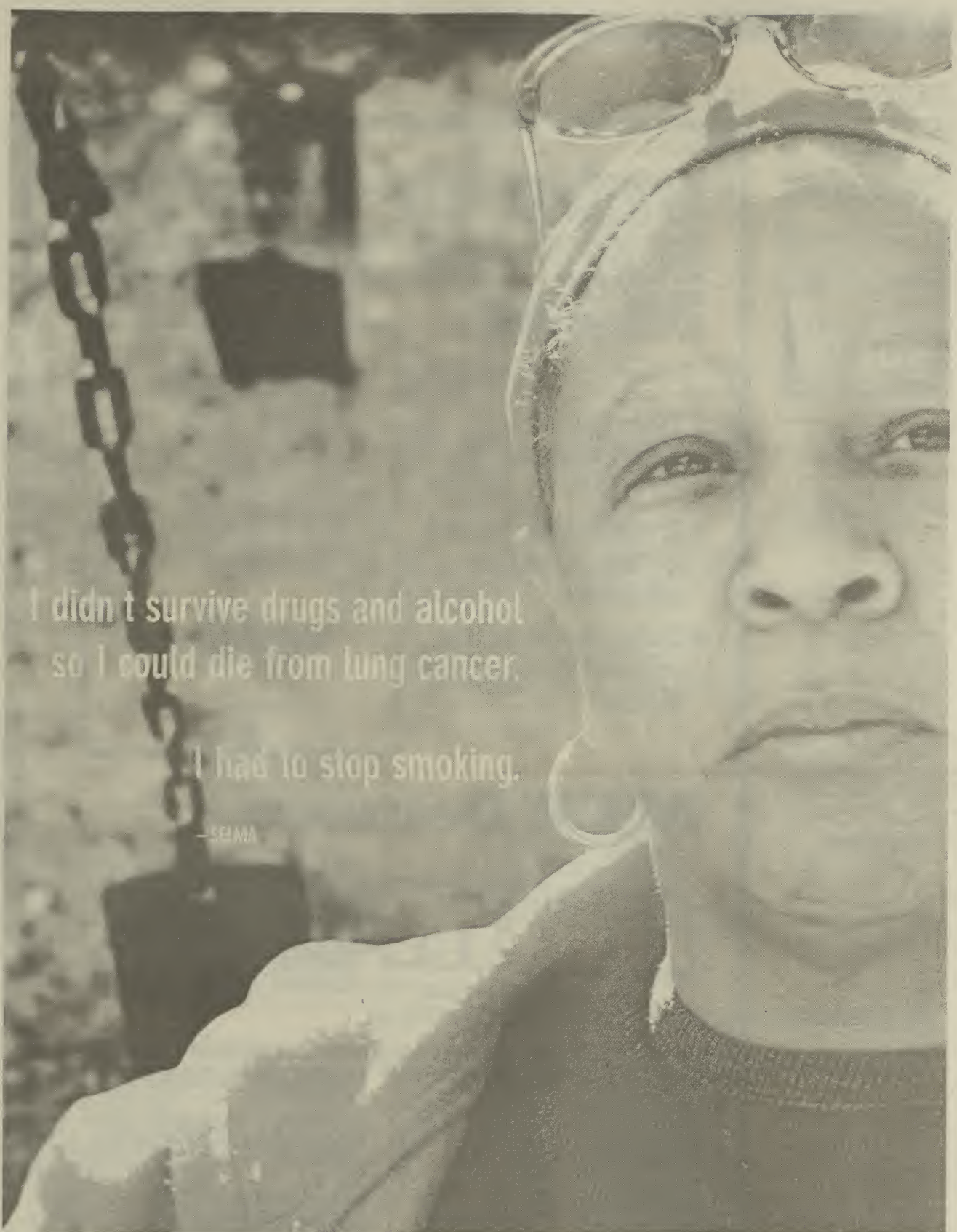
Sharing our playground with you!

Image courtesy of  
Raging Stallion Studios

news you can use...  
plus a whole lot more!

## BAY AREA REPORTER





I didn't survive drugs and alcohol  
so I could die from lung cancer.

I had to stop smoking.

—SELMA

## CIGARETTES ARE MY GREATEST ENEMY

TOBACCO CAUSES MORE DEATHS IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY THAN AIDS, DRUGS, BREAST CANCER AND BASHING COMBINED

THE CENTER  
ORANGE COUNTY  
[www.thecenteroc.org](http://www.thecenteroc.org)



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